

The Four Apostles – Prologue

Swine influenza (also called swine flu, or pig flu) is an infection by any one of several types of swine influenza virus. Swine influenza virus (SIV) is any strain of the influenza family of viruses that is endemic in pigs. As of 2009, the known SIV strains include influenza C and the subtypes of influenza A known as H1N1, H1N2, H3N1, H3N2, and H2N3.

Swine influenza virus is common throughout pig populations worldwide. Transmission of the virus from pigs to humans is not common and does not always lead to human influenza, often resulting only in the production of antibodies in the blood. If transmission does cause human influenza, it is called zoonotic swine flu. People with regular exposure to pigs are at increased risk of swine flu infection. The meat of an infected animal poses no risk of infection when properly cooked.

Pigs experimentally infected with the strain of swine flu that caused the recent human pandemic showed clinical signs of flu within four days, and the virus spread to other uninfected pigs housed with the infected ones.

During the mid-20th century, identification of influenza subtypes became possible, allowing accurate diagnosis of transmission to humans. Since then, only 50 such transmissions have been confirmed. These strains of swine flu rarely pass from human to human. Symptoms of zoonotic swine flu in humans are similar to those of influenza and of influenza-like illness in general, namely chills, fever, sore throat, muscle pains, severe headache, coughing, weakness, and general discomfort. The recommended time of isolation is about five days.

There are many subtypes of avian influenza viruses, but only some strains of four subtypes have been highly pathogenic in humans. These are types H5N1, H7N3, H7N7, and H9N2.

Influenza is so common it has its own name, Seasonal Flu. Periodically, a new strain emerges leading to a pandemic. Recent examples were the Russian Flu (H3N8?) running from 1889–1890, the Spanish Flu (H1N1) running from 1918-19, the Asian Flu running from 1957-58, the Hong Kong Flu running from 1968-69 and the 2009 Flu Pandemic (H1N1) running from 2009-10.

There is even a scale to rate the seriousness of these unusual Flu strains:

CDC Pandemic Severity Index chart

Category	CFR	example(s)
1	less than 0.1%	Seasonal Flu and Swine Flu
2	0.1% to 0.5%	Asian Flu and Hong Kong Flu
3	0.5% to 1%	

4	1% to 2%	
5	2% or higher	Spanish flu

The CDC recognizes several Flu strains:

H1N1, which caused the 1918 flu pandemic ("Spanish flu") and currently is causing seasonal human flu and the 2009 flu pandemic ("swine flu")

H2N2, which caused "Asian flu"

H3N2, which caused "Hong Kong flu" and currently causes seasonal human flu

H5N1, ("bird flu"), which is noted for having a strain (Asian-lineage HPAI H5N1) that kills over half the humans it infects, infecting and killing species that were never known to suffer from influenza viruses before (e.g. cats), being unable to be stopped by culling all involved poultry - some think due to being endemic in wild birds, and causing billions of dollars to be spent in flu pandemic preparation and preventiveness

H7N7, which has unusual zoonotic potential and killed one person

H1N2, which is currently endemic in humans and pigs and causes seasonal human flu

H9N2, which has infected three people

H7N2, which has infected two people

H7N3, which has infected two people

H10N7, which has infected two people

As a long time Prepper I had done all I could to prepare for Doomsday. Doomsday events fall into 2 categories, natural and human caused. There was nothing that could be done to prevent the first beyond accumulating the necessities like pure air, shelter, good water, food and a means of protection.

My work rifles were a STG-58 Austrian FAL originally acquired from DSA and purchased 2nd hand and a semi-auto POF R415-18-11H-223-C3 (HSR rail, Olive Drab Cerakote with 18" barrel).

My primary sniper rifle was an M-21 with chrome moly barrel not stainless, adjustable synthetic stock bedded by McMillan, Surefire suppressor, Harris bipod, ACOG and Nightforce NXS 3.5-15x56mm riflescope.

My 2nd sniper rifle was a VR-1 in .408 CheyTac w/ 10 round magazines, an Elite Iron Suppressor, bipod and monopod. It had a Nightforce 12-42x56mm. Can't say I thought much of the wooden stock, so I got a McMillan A5 stock fitted and bedded, by McMillan.

About my sniper rifles... I had no intention of letting anyone get close enough to do me bodily harm. The VR-1 was an extravagance I could have done without... but what a rifle.

My handguns included a Glock 21SF, backup Glock 30SF in an ankle holster with double mag pouch for 21SF magazines on the opposite ankle.

My Shotgun was a Mossberg 590A1 SPX with the OKC-3S bayonet, my only knife.

Communications equipment included 2 45 watt Motorola Low Band Business Band mobile radios (32 channel CM 300s) and 4 5 watt (16 channel CP 200s) portables, Yaesu 857D mobile and base, Galaxy SSB CB base station, Cobra 148 GTL SSB Radio and a modified scanning receiver. The 2 portable CBs were 4 watt 40 channel Cobras.

There was a Trauma Kit, Only Aid Kit, top of the line First Aid Kit together with OTC First Aid Supplies. I chose QuikClot ACS sponges.

Food selections were the Emergency Essentials' Traditional 2000 Year Supply of Food times five and the Walton Feed Year Supply-Deluxe 1 Year Food Storage Unit for 1, also times five. For mobility's sake there were several cases on Mountain House double Entrée packs and a selection of freeze fried fruits.

As indicated, my greatest fear was a global pandemic.

The Four Apostles – Chapter 1

Additions had been made to the 10 year food supply including great northern beans, small pink beans, kidney beans and Elephant brand Jasmine rice. Since neither company supplied vegetable oil, coffee, bath tissue or cigarettes, I had to add those.

I was in good shape ammo wise with surplus Lake City M118LR, Mk 262 Mod 0, so forth and so on. I followed the advice of one of the PAW writers and bought 5,000 rounds plus of each caliber of the rifle ammo, except for the .408 CheyTac which cost \$7 per round, and 2,000 rounds of Speer 230gr FMJ and 1,000 rounds of 230gr Gold Dot. My shotgun ammo included Black Magic 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ oz. slugs, Remington 3" 15-pellet 00 buck and 3" 41-pellet #4 buck. Those 3" shells packed a wallop. Impact Guns had the .408 CheyTac 419 grain match ammunition, Factory loaded box 20 rounds, \$140.

Did I mention I was divorced? Susan was adamantly opposed to firearms ownership. It came to a head when she gave me the ultimatum, her or the guns.

"So long sweetheart. Don't let the door hit you on the butt on your way out."

"Oh no you don't, I get the house AND the Beamer. Get that goofy Suburban, your hobby junk and get out."

"You mean that you don't want half of the joint bank account?"

"The balance is \$127.43, a lot of good that will do me."

"Put it in writing and I won't contest the divorce."

"Does that mean you don't want spousal support? I make triple what you do."

Ever heard the expression, *what she doesn't know won't hurt me*? She thought that 3 month food supply was the extent of my preps, excluding my firearms and ammo. Who was I to correct what she thought? I had a large climate controlled storage room that Susan didn't know about and it was nearly full.

I'd picked up a small 7 acre parcel of land in the Missouri Ozarks. The only thing it lacked was a useable cave. I didn't say there was no cave, just that the one on the property was nearly unusable. It was located halfway up the face of a bluff and when I'd managed to get into it, I discovered it had less than 90ft² of floor space. So, I bought a used 31' Airstream travel trailer to use as my new home. I was burning through those savings Susan didn't know about. Her money was hers and mine was mine and since she was the rich *itch, she paid the house payment.

All it took to finish off the property was septic, a well and power. PV panels, a single Radian series GS8048 Outback charge controller/inverter and a set of batteries provided the power. Since the plug to connect to electricity in a camping spot was rated 50

amps, the trailer didn't use much juice. I also added a used 10kw propane generator and a 1,100 gallon propane tank, just in case. The generator and batteries went into a metal shed I erected. And, my firearms were housed in an el cheapo gun safe and the ammo in the metal shed.

Moving to the new location tripled my commuting mileage, but it was worth every penny. I got my mail at a rental *mailbox*; hence I'd fallen off the grid. I used the mailbox number as an apartment number, beginning to hide in plain sight.

An extension ladder gave me access to the cave and I began using it to store what wouldn't fit in the trailer or shed. I didn't have TV or internet by choice. Those just gave others an additional way to track you down. It was easier to take my laptop to an internet café and access the internet from there. There were also several locations around the city where Wi-Fi was accessible.

Family can be nice, or not. Our folks were gone and my 2 brothers and I couldn't have a civil conversation because I was a *Survivalist Crackpot*. They were much more *down to earth*. Tim was a CPA and Ron a shyster (attorney), the same as Susan. The 3 deserved each other. I was a blue collar worker, an HEO operating construction equipment, a cat skinner to be exact. Started out with this firm using a smaller cat and worked up to a D9 and operated it until the company picked up a larger D10. After that, I operated whichever of the two the job called for. I learned to operate most all of the heavy equipment at one time or the other.

In the fall of 2009, the seasonal flu was H1N1 and the WHO declared a Global Pandemic. I had already taken my flu shot and they had no specific vaccine for the H1N1 Swine Flu at that time. I took a few precautions including exam gloves under my leather gloves and kept a box of N-95 masks handy. Purell was in short supply so I went with germ-X, a different brand of the same type of product. Both are ethyl alcohol, Purell 62% and germ-X 60%.

The foreman wasn't too happy about the masks but he couldn't fire me for wearing one. It wasn't long before the construction company began making the masks and gloves available to everyone. I believe that the WHO may have jumped the gun because the Swine Flu didn't develop into a major Pandemic. OTOH, maybe it didn't because of their early declaration. It had the lowest death rate of any pandemic in recent memory, ~14,000 or ~18,000 depending on the data source.

As of 19 November 2009, over 65 million doses of vaccine had been administered in over 16 countries; the vaccine seemed safe and effective, producing a strong immune response that should protect against infection. Whereas the 2009 trivalent seasonal influenza vaccine neither increased nor decreased the risk of infection with H1N1, the vaccines rushed to combat the new strain were effective against H1N1, although they were manufactured similarly. Overall the safety profile of the new H1N1 vaccine was similar to that of the seasonal flu vaccine, and as of November 2009 fewer than a dozen cases of Guillain-Barre syndrome had been reported post-vaccination. Only a few of

these were suspected to be actually related to the H1N1 vaccination, and only temporary illness had been observed. This was in strong contrast to the 1976 swine flu outbreak, when mass vaccinations in the United States caused over 500 cases of Guillain-Barre syndrome and led to 25 deaths. Although the vaccines were effective, many industrialized nations were giving away, selling, canceling orders for and destroying excess doses of the vaccine.

There was little or no fighting in the streets over access to the vaccine. It was so effective that the excess doses were discarded. The company arranged for all of the employees and their families to be vaccinated, regardless of whether you'd gotten the seasonal flu shot.

With everyone healthy, we completed 2 jobs ahead of schedule resulting in bonuses. I had plans for my bonus, 3 40' conex which I planned to reinforce and bury on my property. I had to bring in a demolition guy to break up the rock if I were to get the conex as deeply as I wanted. I'd seen some videos on YouTube about shelters built from containers. The containers available were going for \$3,000 and my plans called for 3.

I planned to set them side by side and cut holes between the 3. One would be sleeping quarters, the 2nd living quarters and the 3rd storage and the generator. One of the videos showed the guy constructing stairs to the conex after having replaced the 2 big doors. The stairs were enclosed in concrete block and the roof supported by either 2x6s or 2x8s. He poured concrete over the top and added soil.

My objection to his plan was the depth of the container, barely 2' below surface level. I was thinking more like 6' of earth over the concrete, if I used concrete. He used 6" of concrete to cover the 320ft², 160ft³ or 6 yards. In my case, it would take 18 yards of concrete plus whatever went over the stairs if I built stairs. I had to think on it.

Finally, I hired the demo guy and he blasted out the rock and an excavation contractor removed and stacked it. I was going to be short of soil. I bought the containers and had them lifted off the wheels and directly into the hole by the guy that did my septic. I then got a welder friend to weld plates connecting the 3 containers after which I sealed them in tar. I removed the doors from the center container and replaced them with 2 sheets of reinforced ½" sheet steel spaced to allow mounting a door and mounted a 36" steel door.

The last thing I did before the money ran out was to cut the holes between the 3 containers and have my friend weld steel plates forming smooth passageways between the 3 containers. Some of the smaller tasks could then be accomplished since they didn't cost anything. One example was moving the generator in. Another was moving in the supplies.

Not long after, we finished up a 3rd job early earning an early completion bonus which was again divided up among those of us who had worked on the project. I used that money to buy a Safe Cell from American Safe Rooms and got it installed.

My triple conex bomb shelter was coming together in fits and starts and it was ahead of schedule. Since the only electrical service at the camp was from the PV panels, I added a wind turbine for those days when it was overcast. The setup was extremely simple. The PV panels and wind turbine fed the batteries via the charge controller and the 48vdc was inverted to produce 120/240. The installation gave me power to spare and I looked into submarine batteries.

There was no way I could afford to use those since they went for 3 grand plus and it took 24 for a 48 volt system. So, regardless of how inexpensive my home was, it would be some time before the submarine batteries were purchased. The Airstream was my temporary home while the converted containers would be my permanent home. There would be no rushing to a shelter if something happened; I merely had to lock down.

With the economy failing to recover as it first appeared it might be, the company was having major problems trying to land additional construction contracts. The layoffs began and even those of us who had been with the firm for years began to wait for the axe to drop. I wouldn't go hungry due to my LTS foods. I could supplement those with a garden and can the extra produce.

What does this have to do with the Swine Flu? Stuff happens! I picked up every odd job I ran across, saving for the concrete and soil. When I got an offer on the Airstream, I sold it, giving me the money to finish up my project. After the concrete cured and soil was hauled in to finish the project, my bases were covered. Or so I thought.

Despite getting my Seasonal Flu shot in the fall of 2011, I got the Flu and it was a hum-dinger. It didn't much matter, there was no work available. It let me laze around and recover. Around the time I was getting over the Flu and was in town shopping, I saw a classified ad offering a 500-gallon stand tank for sale. I checked it out and spent my accumulated unemployment to buy the tank and stand.

After I got it home, I sanded it where required and applied a coat of Rust-Oleum. Filling it took a while because all I had to spend was the unemployment. At least the company had gone the extra step to ensure we got unemployment. Eventually, the tank was full of B100.

Despite what's said there are 3 things you can't avoid, death, taxes and the seasonal flu. Moreover, based on what happened in New Orleans when Katrina hit the city, almost any type of catastrophe will bring out the worst in some people and the best in others.

I picked up a replacement job before the extended unemployment ran out. It was a small firm which only had 1 or 2 pieces of each of the types of heavy equipment. At one time or another, I had used all of the implements. I was just the guy they were looking for and was hired even after I pointed out I could only operate one at a time. One of the

owners, Mason Childs, said he could operate all of them and his brother, David, could too.

When the subject of where I lived came up, I told him that I had rental box, but actually lived on a small 7 acre parcel in a timbered area. Mason smiled with a knowing look and dropped it. I had a passing thought that he and David might be Preppers too. I dropped it though because it just wasn't a question a person asked.

It was a family firm and their sister was the office manager and apparently unattached. As a matter of fact, I was being hired to fill the position created when she and her husband got divorced. Mason said her ex had a thing going with a St. Louis attorney and had for some time. Nothing clicked and I let it pass.

I met Carolyn when Mason hired me and sent me to her to fill out the paperwork. Carolyn was every bit Susan's equal with different coloring and a better figure. She, like her brothers, booked no nonsense. As we went through the papers, I learned about the company benefits and they were excellent for a small company. You accrued 8 hours of sick leave per month and 7 hours of vacation; 10½ days. After the 5th year, it went to 10 hours per month; 15 days. Vacation could be accumulated to double your annual earning level; and sick level was unlimited.

They started me on a sheepsfoot pulled by a small dozer. I didn't mind, it was good to get back to work. The pay was slightly less than I'd earned on my previous fulltime job. From what Carolyn said, raises were given annually and based on the profits the company made and your productivity. If that were the case, I'd eventually be right back where I started when I got laid off.

My expenses were nearly nonexistent, fuel for the commute and some wood for canning the produce. I'd have to work the garden in the evenings making for some long days, but I'd eat. I continued using pint jars for the most part. The new job would help me finish off my preps.

I bought a side of beef and a whole hog from the locker plant and filled my freezer. I ordered more pint jars and bought some Tattler lids for the first time to try out. When I was set, food wise, I started buying ammo from Impact Guns, 40 rounds at a time. Hornady 750gr A-MAX Match rounds were cheaper than .408 CheyTac. It was going to take years to build a supply of the ammo. I might be able to do it faster if I could find someone to reload my brass.

I guess I got lucky. I found a local who would reload it if I got the dies and components. Over the long run, that would cut my cost below ½ and eventually to something resembling ⅓. He was using a Lee classic turret press to size 50BMG cases was sure that the .408 would be no trouble. I bought the dies.

He picked up extra Bertram brass in .408 CheyTac, got powder but couldn't get bullets to save his soul. Accurate Bullet Company had some for \$2 each. TTI Armory had the

loaded ammo. Rocky Mountain Bullets had the bullets at \$2.25 and we stocked up on hunting and target rounds. Ruben got everything set up and started reloading, producing a trial batch to start out. It was close enough.

We were busting our humps completing a series of small jobs and about the only time I saw Carolyn was to pick up my checks. Believe me, I didn't mind, the checks included overtime and I was too tired to think about going on a date. I doubted she'd be interested in someone who lived in 3 40' conex containers buried 6' deep.

When we had a lull in our work schedule, Mason and David suggested a day of shooting. They had access to a 1,500 meter range.

"Interested in going shooting?"

"Fifteen hundred meter range? It might be on the short side."

"Shooting a .50?"

"Naw, I got a .408 CheyTac caliber VR-1. It stays supersonic to 2,500 meters."

"Loud?"

"It is with the muzzle brake. No so much with the suppressor."

"What else do you have in that class?"

"A Springfield Armory M-21 with chrome moly barrel and replacement McMillan synthetic check piece stock."

"Glass bedded?"

"That's right."

"Are you any good?"

"Fair, I don't have enough time to practice and some of the ammo is expensive."

"Maybe you could get Ruben to reload your brass."

"He already is. We tracked down the dies, new brass, primers, bullets and powder. He's hanging onto the new brass for later."

"I wouldn't mind having a go at that VR-1."

"Impact Guns has the ammo. If you buy a box, you can run it through my rifle."

“I think I’d better buy 2 boxes, Carolyn will want her turn.”

“She’s a shooter?”

“She’s better than either David or me. That idiot ex-husband of hers left his guns because his lady lawyer friend didn’t like guns. Don Jennings... it seems like I know the name from somewhere.”

“It couldn’t be because of my ex, she kept her maiden name, Sinclair. It made it easier when she told me to hit the bricks.”

If nothing else, the Childs’ could hold their own on a rifle range. Each had a Remington M-24 in .300 Winchester Magnum, a Springfield Armory Super Match with a Loaded model as backup. The shotguns of choice were Remington model 870P MAX with pistol grip, speed feed stock, Surefire tactical fore-end flashlight and ghost ring sight (18” barrel). Handguns were Para Ordnance P-14s with Warthaws for backup.

Mason and David co-owned a McMillan Tac-50 with 12-42x56mm Nightforce scope, McCann rail, AN/PVS-27 MUNS, a total of 12 magazines and a titanium Jet suppressor. They had 10 cases (2,000 rounds) of Hornady 750gr A-MAX Match, 10 cans of Mk 211 MP and the same number of M1022 rounds.

The Springfield rifles had A.R.M.S. mounts, ACOG, Surefire suppressor, Harris bipod, and Nightforce NXS 5.5-22x50mm riflescope on the Super Match and Nightforce NXS 3.5-15x56mm riflescope on the Loaded. The men had Ruger SR-556 rifles, Browning Hi-Power pistols, Beretta Tomcats in .32acp and Mossberg 590A1s with bayonets for their wives and kids. Carolyn had the STG-556s, the AUG clones... for her ex and the 2 children she had wanted. The remaining guns were the same as her brothers had been part of a group buy. She indicated she might swap out one of the shotguns because the Mossberg’s pattern was as tight as the Remington’s and it did have the bayonet.

Bayonets, she said, didn’t make sense on sniper rifles but a shotgun was a close in weapon, 100 yards and less and she could see the bayonet on a shotgun. She asked me why I had a FAL and I explained I got it from a friend who bought it from DSA and hated it. He cut me a deal and since it was less than an M1A, I bought it. She was an interesting lady and probably a Tomboy in her youth. Man, could she shoot!

“So Don, what do you have for accommodations at your little retreat, a trailer?”

“I sold that Mason. Are you familiar with a conex? The come in 20’ and 40’ versions and I bought 3 of the 40’ versions. Had to have some rock blasted out so I could set them in place, side by side. Poured a 6” slab over the top after I reinforced the insides and had enough soil brought in to cover them with 6’ of compacted earth. A friend and I cut between the 3 and welded some plate to smooth the cuts. The center unit is my living quarters, one is sleeping quarters and the third is storage and has my generator and batteries.”

The Four Apostles – Chapter 2

“You live in a bomb shelter?”

“Sure do and I seal it up at night, just in case.”

“What about CO₂?”

“I have a regenerative carbon dioxide removal system (RCRS) which uses a two-bed system that provides continuous removal of carbon dioxide without expendable products. Idea came from the space program. Regenerable systems allow a shuttle mission a longer stay in space without having to replenish its sorbent canisters. A system based on metal oxide primarily consists of a metal oxide sorbent canister and a regenerator assembly. It works by removing carbon dioxide using a sorbent material and then regenerating the sorbent material. The metal-oxide sorbent is regenerated by pumping air heated to around 400 °F at 7.5 SCFM through its canister for 10 hours. Don't really need it most of the time. I'm totally off-grid getting my electricity from PV panels and a wind turbine. At the moment I'm trying to save enough to buy 24 2.2v submarine batteries.”

“How long will that take?”

“I figure about 6 years, buying one per quarter.”

“Now, that's patience. Frankly, I don't know if I could do it.”

“I may not; anytime I have enough for 2, I'll double buy. That could cut it to 4, 3 or even 2 years. I doubt I spend more than \$300 a year on groceries because most of what I eat is home grown. Since I have a grain mill and flaker, it's cheaper to buy wheat and grind my own or buy oats and roll my own. I burn biodiesel and it runs less than half what diesel fuel costs.”

“But what about your propane use?”

“Hot water heater and dryer don't use much. I line dry in the summer. Most of the heat comes from the wood burning kitchen stove. The entire shelter is very well insulated and it simply doesn't take a lot to heat it. In the summer, I usually cook at the outdoor kitchen using the unused heat from canning to heat my meals.”

“You can take those 40 rounds of brass for your reloading project.”

“Thank you. Your sister is a pretty good shot.”

“She's the best of the three of us. It's a good thing her husband was gone when she figured out what he was doing.”

“What do you mean?”

“He said he had to make a trip to St. Louis. After he left he got an email from his attorney, some woman named Susan. Carolyn replied to the email and told his attorney to tell him to not bother coming back.”

“That’s strange. My ex was an attorney who gave me an ultimatum, her or my guns. Her name was Susan.”

“She make a good living?”

“She did, usually over \$250 thousand a year. Why?”

“Well, Carolyn’s ex was and probably still is a playboy. He had a good song and dance but was a worthless as teats on a boar. She bought those guns for him but I doubt he ever fired even one of them. I can’t prove it, but I think they terrified him.”

“I don’t want to step on any toes here and since she’s your sister I guess I’d better ask you. Would anyone object if I asked her out on a date?”

“You’ll have to ask her, it wouldn’t be David’s or my business.”

“I can’t see myself asking her if it would be ok to ask her out on a date.”

“Then don’t; just ask her out on a date. She’ll either say yes or no but you’re not going to know until you ask her.”

Well, it took 2 weeks to screw up my courage.

“Here you go, Don. You had a good week.”

“Could I ask you something Carolyn?”

“You can ask anything. I may not know the answer.”

“Oh. I think you should be able to answer this. Would you join me tomorrow for an early supper and a movie?”

“No. But I will join you for a movie followed by an early supper. If we go to supper first, the movie tickets will be full price. It doesn’t make much sense to pay full price for the movie tickets.”

“Would 2:00 be ok?”

“Know what you want to see?”

“Uh, *Hunger Games*?”

“I’d like to see that too. We’d better get there early so we can get tickets.”

“I’ll get those tonight.”

“Oh, ok. See you at 2. Do you have my address?”

“No I don’t.”

“I’ll write it down for you. Don’t be late.”

Don’t be late. What had I gotten myself into, another pushy woman? It was one of those time would tell deals and if she was pushy, she could push me away with hardly any trouble. I’d had enough pushy women to last a lifetime, or two, and it had only taken one.

I was 5 minutes early and debated going to the door or waiting to exactly 2:00. I opted to go to the door.

“You’re early. That’s good, even with tickets bought ahead of time; we’ll probably want some popcorn and a drink. Good thinking.”

And then, maybe not pushy, time would still tell. We made chit chat on the way to the movie and while we got a tub of popcorn and 2 drinks. We wondered if the 2 sequel books would be made into movies.

The movie indirectly led to a line of conversation, the controversial Mayan Calendar End of Days, December 21, 2012.

“The 2012 phenomenon comprises a range of eschatological beliefs according to which cataclysmic or transformative events will occur on 21 December 2012. This date is regarded as the end-date of a 5,125-year-long cycle in the Mesoamerican Long Count calendar. Various astronomical alignments and numerological formulae have been proposed as pertaining to this date, though none have been accepted by mainstream scholarship.

“A New Age interpretation of this transition is that this date marks the start of time in which Earth and its inhabitants may undergo a positive physical or spiritual transformation, and that 2012 may mark the beginning of a new era. Others suggest that the 2012 date marks the end of the world or a similar catastrophe. Scenarios suggested for the end of the world include the arrival of the next solar maximum, or Earth's collision with an object such as a black hole, a passing asteroid, or a planet called *Nibiru*.

“Professional Mayanist scholars state that predictions of impending doom are not found in any of the extant classic Maya accounts, and that the idea that the Long Count cal-

endar "ends" in 2012 misrepresents Maya history and culture. Astronomers and other scientists have rejected the proposals as pseudoscience, stating that they conflict with simple astronomical observations and amount to *a distraction from more important science concerns, such as global warming and loss of biological diversity.*"

"I've always figured the calendar just started over on the 14th long cycle."

That got us into a discussion of what I would do if it were true and I said I'd hole up in my shelter.

"Mason said something about you living in a shelter. Do you do that full time?"

"I sure do. What if something happened when I was asleep?"

"So you lock up the shelter every night?"

"I only lock the outer door. Access to the actual shelter is via a concrete block tunnel with stairs and there is a blast door on each end. I got the plan from a video on YouTube. It was actually quite specific. However another guy built the same deal using 3 containers instead of 1 and I combined the applicable information from both videos and built my own."

"All by yourself?"

"I had to get a well driller, a powder monkey to blast out some rock, an excavator to move the broken up rock, had a septic system put in and a friend helped with some welding. Then I didn't have enough dirt to provide 6' of cover and had to buy that. On a rare occasion I'd pick up a day's work, always paid in cash at minimum wage or lower, so I don't really don't count that. And to tell the truth, I didn't report it, either."

"So tell me about you."

"When I graduated from High School, I went to work for a Construction Company and learned to operate heavy equipment. I started and ended up on a dozer and ran everything they had at one time or another. While the preps won't save you, the very act of preparing just might. That's because it creates a mindset that will allow one to deal with Doomsday assuming they survive. So, I prepared; air, check; shelter, check; water, check; food, check; and, a means of protection, check. Conceivably I might live long enough to acquire enough of those rounds of .408 CheyTac to merit owning the rifle."

"Expensive?"

"About \$7 a round."

"Save your brass and have Ruben reload it."

"I already have that covered, thank you."

"Would you like to go somewhere and get an after dinner drink?"

"Are you sure?"

"I'm sure but if you'd rather, we can go back to my place. I have a full bar."

"This is surprise and it's most definitely a role reversal. I thought the *candy was dandy but liquor was quicker* was the guy's line."

"I've heard the same, Don, my place or a bar?"

"I guess your place would be fine."

Despite what I initially thought, Carolyn just wanted to get to know me better as a person and not in the biblical sense. She told me as much about herself as she asked about me. Their father had gotten them started with shooting when he'd gotten out of the Marines. He'd been a sniper. She wanted to know what had gotten me interested in prepping.

I told her I couldn't pinpoint any event in my past that brought me to the dark side. Some unknown thing had motivated me and the more I got into it, the more I wanted to accumulate.

She asked how I'd come to select the VR-1 in .408 CheyTac. I responded that I'd been influenced by one of the patriot fiction writers. She said, "Jerry," and then said, "Mason and David were influenced by TOM."

"I can't claim that he didn't influence me. I have an M-21 instead of a PTR-91 and I never trusted the semi-auto shotguns. I could have bought an 870 but opted for the 590A1 with the OKC-3S bayonet. I didn't get the pistol grip or speedfeed stock choosing to add a TacStar side saddle, a Specter Gear 6 Shell Buttstock Shot shell holder and a Black Hawk shot shell sling holding 15 extra shells.

"The only problem with the VR-1 is the cost of the ammo. I'll eventually get enough unless Doomsday comes early."

"Everyone has his or her own idea of what Doomsday will be. What do you think it will be, Don?"

"I've long figured on a Pandemic like the Spanish Flu only Systemic. Jerry wrote a story he titled *Systemic Pandemic*. According to what I looked up, a Systemic Pandemic is a combination of a bacterial infection and a viral infection. Antibiotics deal with bacterial infections but only vaccines deal with viral infections. Now if you had an autoimmune

based infection you might have a situation where isolation was the only insurance policy you could buy.”

“How long would you have to isolate?”

“I don’t really know. I suppose the most correct answer would be until it was over. Not many viruses can live long without a host. I’m not really sure that applies to bacteria, however. Either way, I’ve stocked up. I have the gas masks, suits, boots, tape and extra filters. I also got a deal once on N-100 masks and the shelter is well stocked with those. There is enough food to last a dozen people a year without rationing and longer if rationing were invoked. What’s your idea of Doomsday, Carolyn?”

“Oh, I have no idea. I’m reasonably certain it will involve guns and fighting over scarce resources, like food.”

“We’ve had any number of times where food was in short supply that didn’t see armed people in the streets.”

“Combine that with a short fuel supply preventing deliveries of what food is grown and the Declaration of a National Emergency. Follow that by a gun ban and you WILL see guns involved. Oh my,” she said trying to suppress a yawn. “It’s time this waif got to bed. I’ll see you to the door.”

“Goodnight. I had a wonderful time Carolyn.”

“I did too. Don’t be a stranger. There’s plenty in the area for entertainment, movies, dancing, and so forth.”

“I’ll keep that in mind.”

“Please do,” she said suppressing another yawn.

I took my leave and headed home to my shelter, happier than any time in recent memory. I meant it, I had a wonderful time.

“Don, David and I have been talking. You’re every bit as good as either of us on the heavy equipment. We thought that deserved some recognition and ran it by Carolyn. Effective today, you’ll be our foreman running jobs when one of us can’t be there. The remainder of the time, you be our lead HEO. Beginning today, you will be working with a 15% increase in pay and still hourly.”

“Wow. Thanks guys, I know just where to put that 15%.”

“Don’t forget, that’s before taxes.”

Could be, but it was \$70 a week, half the price of a box of .408 CheyTac. My purchasing program was going to get a shot in the arm. When I got my paycheck on Friday, it was more than I expected. I knew how many hours I had worked at straight time and time and one-half. Double-time was very rare and I didn't have any. The only way to find out was to ask.

"Carolyn, this is more than I expected. Mason said I was getting a 15% raise."

"That's what he told me too, Don. If they each wanted to give you 7½% that was fine, but that sort of left me out so I added my 10%. Now you can buy a box per week of that ammo you need."

"I don't want Mason and David on my case."

"Don't worry about Mason and David, I'll handle them, assuming they ever figure it out. They should have given you a 25% raise like I suggested."

"Well, ok, if you say so. Are you up for a movie and dinner tomorrow night?"

"I'm up for dinner and a movie tonight. Pick me up in an hour and wear a tie."

I had to hump to make it on time. I drove home, got a shower, shaved, brushed my teeth and got dressed. I splashed on some Old Spice and headed out. I tend to keep my Suburban cleaned out so it was satisfactory without any extra digging out. Saturday is laundry day and I had changed sheets that morning. I was going to do laundry and hang dry it to get the fresh smell.

We went to Red Lobster and when Carolyn ordered a petite filet and lobster tail, I did the same. We had Merlot wine with dinner and no desert. We had some time to kill before the movie and she wanted to go back to her place to pick up something, she said. It was a large canvas bag with a zipper.

We watched the movie, *21 Jump Street*, and neither of us was particularly impressed. When we got out of the movie, Carolyn said, "I want to see your shelter."

"I'll pick you up tomorrow."

"I'm already in your Suburban and there's a change of clothes in that bag. I'd like to see it now."

"What would people think?"

"Nothing if they know what's good for them. Your ex-wife's name is Sinclair?"

"Yes, she kept it for professional reasons when we got married. Why, what does that have to do with anything?"

"I checked the message header in Outlook Express and it came from Susan Sinclair at St. Louis Law firm. She's your ex, right?"

"Chance favors the prepared mind."

"Huh?"

"I was just quoting Travis Dane quoting Louis Pasteur."

"Answer the question."

"She would be my ex, yes."

"And she threw you out for him?"

"Are you referring to your ex?"

"I am. Was she any good in bed? He was awful."

"She just sort of lay there, if you get my drift."

"Get moving, you know what he got and I intend to show you what he gave up for what he got."

"Are you sure?"

"Start the darned Suburban."

It was almost one of those yes dear moments. Almost. I'd been curious and was about to have that curiosity sated. Did this mean I had a new girlfriend? Girl wasn't the right description for Carolyn, she was all woman. When we got to the shelter, she asked which container was the sleeping container. I simply pointed. She called out that I could come in and I went into the bathroom and undressed, putting on my pajamas. I slipped into bed to find a totally naked Carolyn, tugging at my pajamas trying to get them off.

"Shy are we?"

"You don't seem to be. Where did those come from, the way you dress; one would have never known."

"I dress down. Ready to compare notes?"

"I wouldn't put it that way."

“Well?”

“Oh my God.”

“You weren’t half bad yourself. I’m glad we got this sorted out. Do you want to be an item? Heck, I want to be an item so you just hang on for the ride.”

“You don’t seem to be short on places to hang on to.”

“You’re just saying because it’s true. Ready for round two?”

“How many rounds in this fight?”

“Fifteen or until you collapse.”

TKO after the 5th round. She was ready to go and I called out *No Más*. (Sugar Ray Leonard vs. Roberto Durán II, also known as the *No Más* Fight, is one of the most famous fights in boxing history. Taking place on November 25, 1980 at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans it was the second of three bouts between the pair.)

Rode hard and put up wet didn’t begin to describe how I felt the next morning.

“Good morning, ready for breakfast?”

“Yeah, 3 vitamins and a glass of orange juice.”

“Three eggs or more? You need your protein to get your body in better shape. Too much riding the dozers and not enough physical labor.”

“Three scrambled with bacon and toast. The whatchamacallit doesn’t hide much.”

“It’s not supposed to. In the light of day you can see that God didn’t short me any in the where it counts department.”

“I’ll say. Why do you dress down?”

“You know the guys that you work with; surely you can see the problems my having a full figure would present. But I’ve managed to reach a compromise between my underwear and the style of clothing I wear.”

“I would have never guessed even after our first date.”

The Four Apostles – Chapter 3

“I have a confession to make, it was a test. I mean inviting you to my place for a drink. I wanted to see if you felt you could take liberties.”

“I did no such thing!”

“And, it got you a second date plus many more if last night was an example of the kind of man you are.”

“Are you always so forward?”

“Only when I see something I really want.”

“Something or someone?”

“Both. I had been doing some checking since before you had hired on. I had the Susan Sinclair link but didn’t know where you fit in. When I ran the standard background check, I discovered you had been married to a Susan Sinclair. I followed up on that and learned that her ex-husband was named Don Jennings. Since you’d previously worked in the St. Louis area, it just added up.

“You’re not a bad looking guy Don; sort of a rugged handsome. A gal could do worse in hooking up with you, provided you wanted to hook up with the gal.”

“Are you still young enough to have children?”

“After I quit taking the shots, my fertility should return in 15-18 months. I started taking them so he and I didn’t have any kids and kept them up in case I saw someone I might want to have a fling with. I’m the youngest of the children in our family.”

“Am I a fling?”

“I don’t believe so. I never saw anyone I wanted to have one with. How about we live together for six months to a year and see how it works out?”

“Do we need to tell your brothers?”

“Afraid they’ll try to beat you to a pulp? No, we tell them; they don’t care and won’t interfere as long as you treat me like a Lady.”

The funny thing was, they didn’t sag. So Carolyn and I officially became an item Monday morning when her brothers were informed. With her to guide my hand, adjustments were made in the storeroom/generator conex. Some things were moved to the cave, others back to the conex and some of her families’ supplies brought out to the shelter.

Mason and his wife, Doreen, had 2 children, boys, and David and his wife, Carmen, had 2 girls and a boy. The shelter could handle 12, in a pinch, but would be crowded. They decided to add 2 more containers, one for storage and a second for sleeping quarters. The modification would increase the total floor space from 960ft² to 1,600ft² and would only add about 17' to the width. All of which was accomplished on the company's dime. That included a residential propane fuel standby generator next to the existing generator and a 30,000-gallon propane tank behind a berm.

We got so busy between work and the afterhours work on the project that I didn't have a chance to order the ammo from Impact Guns. And when I finally did, it wasn't a single box of 20 rounds, but a case of 10 boxes. They discounted slightly by the full case. You could choose between the reduced price and an extra box of ammo. I took the ammo. All of a sudden things were looking up.

Carolyn dug into her savings and footed the bill for 24 submarine batteries with the cables. David and Mason bought 2 more of the Radian series GS8048 Outback charge controller/inverters, PV panels and wind turbines. The wind turbines were installed and the PV panels stored, just in case.

They stored my wood burning stove and replaced it with a propane stove over my protests. It was cleaned down to bare metal and received a coat of cooking oil to prevent rust. Since I had an outdoor kitchen, they brought in 20 cords of hardwood and a half cord of softwood kindling for that stove.

With 7 acres, the parcel wasn't really cramped except on the weekends when the family got together. There was my Suburban, Carolyn's Jeep Wrangler with the new Cummins 4BT engine, and Mason's and David's Jeep Grand Cherokees with new Cummins 6BT engines. All three had manual transmissions and transfer cases. The only internal modifications to each of their vehicles had been to install Faraday cages for the electronics. They duplicated the radios I had since I had a full set, and added a crank up/down fold over HDX-689MDPL antenna tower with HF beams VHF beams and UHF beams, 10 band vertical above the beams and standoffs for the CB base station antenna, Business Band antenna and a Diamond D-130J. They never said what the 4th standoff was for... symmetry? Actually, it had CCTV camera with a 370° rotation mounted on a short mast and came directly from US Tower Systems.

"That antenna tower is special Don. It's rated at twice the wind load of a similar tower US Tower builds and has the highest wind load of any of their towers."

"Why would that be important, Mason? The timber on my parcel protects pretty much everything. If, God forbid, we had a GTW I don't believe we'd get a lot of blast and little fallout."

"GTW?"

"Global Thermonuclear War."

“I thought your main concern was a Systemic Pandemic.”

“Been talking to your sister, huh? A Systemic Pandemic is my worst fear. That said, I believe a GTW is more likely. Too many nations have nukes. And, what about the ones with nuclear reactors that we don't know about?”

“You mean Japan and Germany?”

“Those would be 2 of many. You know about the Fukushima Dai-Ichi reactor No. 4 problem? Here, read this.”

(NaturalNews) The news you are about to read puts everything else in the category of insignificant by comparison. Concerned about the 2012 US presidential election? Worried about GMOs? Fluoride? Vaccines? Secret prisons? None of that even matters if we don't solve the problem of Fukushima Dai-Ichi reactor No. 4, which is on the verge of a catastrophic failure that could unleash enough radiation to end human civilization on our planet.

The resulting releasing of radiation would turn North America into a dead zone for humans... mutated and failed crops, radioactive groundwater, skyrocketing infant mortality, an explosion in cancer and infertility... this is what could be unleashed at any moment from an earthquake in Japan. Such an event could result in the release of 85 times the ¹³⁷Cs released by the Chernobyl catastrophe, say experts. And the Chernobyl catastrophe made its surrounding regions uninhabitable by humans for centuries.

Yet, astonishingly, the usual suspects of deception are saying absolutely nothing about this problem. The mainstream media pretends there's no problem with Fukushima. President Obama says nothing about it. Federal regulators, including the NRC, are all but silent. It's as if they think their silence on the issue somehow makes it go away.

Perhaps these professional liars in the media and government have become so used to idea that they can simply spin their own reality that they now believe they can ignore the laws of physics. That's why they have refused to cover the low-level radiation plume that continues to be emitted from Fukushima.

"It is no exaggeration to say that the fate of Japan and the whole world depends on No.4 reactor." - Mitsuhei Murata, Former Japanese Ambassador to Switzerland and Senegal, Executive Director, the Japan Society for Global System and Ethics

Mr. Murata's stunning statement should be front-page news everywhere around the world. Why? Because he's right. If reactor No. 4 suffers even a minor earthquake, it could set off a chain reaction of events that quickly lead to North America becoming uninhabitable by humans for centuries to come. Imagine California, Oregon and Washington states being inundated with radiation – up to 85 times the radiation release from Chernobyl. We're talking about the end of human life on the scale of continents.

Here's how this could happen, according to Mr. Robert Alvarez, former Senior Policy Adviser to the Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for National Security and the Environment at the US Department of Energy:

"The No. 4 pool is about 100 feet above ground, is structurally damaged and is exposed to the open elements. If an earthquake or other event were to cause this pool to drain this could result in a catastrophic radiological fire involving nearly 10 times the amount of ¹³⁷Cs released by the Chernobyl accident. The infrastructure to safely remove this material was destroyed as it was at the other three reactors. Spent reactor fuel cannot be simply lifted into the air by a crane as if it were routine cargo. In order to prevent severe radiation exposures, fires and possible explosions, it must be transferred at all times in water and heavily shielded structures into dry casks. As this has never been done before, the removal of the spent fuel from the pools at the damaged Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors will require a major and time-consuming re-construction effort and will be charting in unknown waters."

"Is this for real?"

"I followed all of the related links and I tend to believe it. It appears to me that we're going to get Japanese radiation one way or the other."

"You're familiar with the Nuclear Winter theories I presume?"

"I don't see how that applies."

"More recent 3 dimensional models have shown that the effects from a northern hemisphere exchange would spread to the southern hemisphere. I'm just saying..."

"Armageddon?"

"Armageddon."

"That assumes that an earthquake hits the Fukushima area."

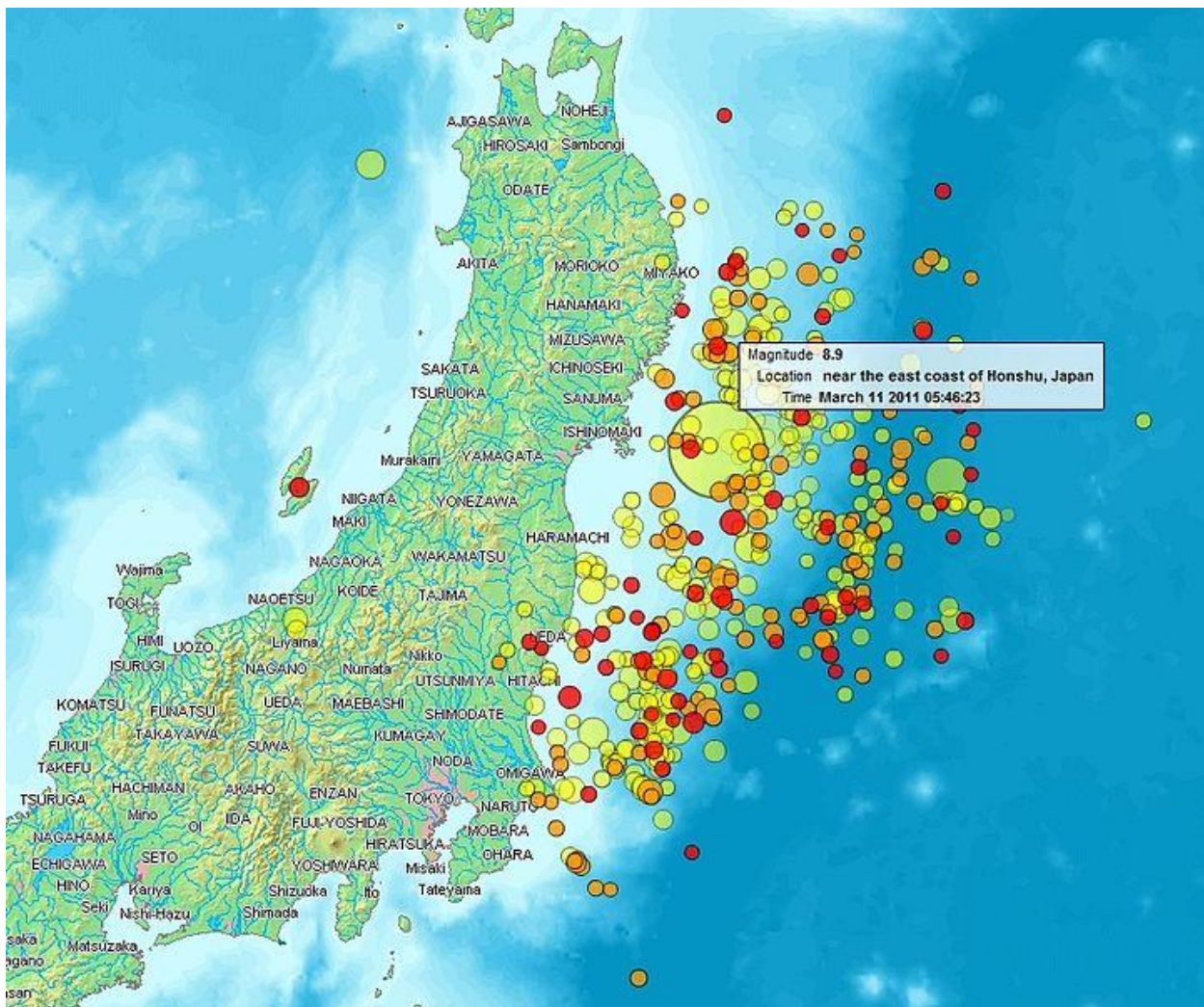
"Look at this map and tell me if you believe that the Fukushima area won't be hit by another earthquake."

"What time period does this cover?"

"It covers the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami and the 3 days following."

"The quake moved portions of northeastern Japan by as much as 2.4 m (7.9 ft) closer to North America, making portions of Japan's landmass wider than before. Portions of Japan closest to the epicenter experienced the largest shifts. A 400 km (250 mi) stretch of coastline dropped vertically by 0.6 m (2.0 ft), allowing the tsunami to travel farther and

faster onto land. One early estimate suggested that the Pacific plate may have moved westward by up to 20 m (66 ft), and another early estimate put the amount of slippage at as much as 40 m (130 ft). On 6 April the Japanese coast guard said that the quake shifted the seabed near the epicenter 24 meters (79 ft) and elevated the seabed off the coast of Miyagi prefecture by 3 meters. A report by the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, published in Science on 2 December 2011, concluded that the seabed in the area between the epicenter and the Japan Trench moved 50 meters east-southeast and rose about 7 meters as a result of the quake. The report also stated that the quake had caused several major landslides on the seabed in the affected area.”



The earthquake shifted the Earth's axis by estimates of between 10 cm (4 in) and 25 cm (10 in). This deviation led to a number of small planetary changes, including the length of a day, the tilt of the Earth, and the Chandler wobble. The speed of the Earth's rotation increased, shortening the day by 1.8 microseconds due to the redistribution of Earth's

mass. The axial shift was caused by the redistribution of mass on the Earth's surface, which changed the planet's moment of inertia. Because of conservation of angular momentum, such changes of inertia result in small changes to the Earth's rate of rotation. These are expected changes for an earthquake of this magnitude.

Soil liquefaction was evident in areas of reclaimed land around Tokyo, particularly in Urayasu, Chiba City, Funabashi, Narashino (all in Chiba Prefecture) and in the Koto, Edogawa, Minato, Chūō, and Ōta Wards of Tokyo. Approximately 30 homes or buildings were destroyed and 1,046 other buildings were damaged to varying degrees. Nearby Haneda Airport, built mostly on reclaimed land, was not damaged. Odaiba also experienced liquefaction, but damage was minimal.

Shinmoedake, a volcano in Kyushu, erupted two days after the earthquake. The volcano had previously erupted in January 2011; it is not known if the later eruption was linked to the earthquake. In Antarctica, the seismic waves from the earthquake were reported to have caused the Whillans Ice Stream to slip by about 0.5 m (1.6 ft).

The first sign international researchers had that the earthquake caused such a dramatic change in the Earth's rotation came from the United States Geographical Survey which monitors Global Positioning Satellite stations across the world. The Survey team had several GPS monitors located near the scene of the earthquake. The GPS station located nearest the epicenter moved almost 13 feet (4.0 m). This motivated government researchers to look into other ways the earthquake may have had large scale effects on the planet. Scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory did some calculations and determined that the Earth's rotation was changed by the earthquake to the point where the days are now one point eight (1.8) microseconds shorter.

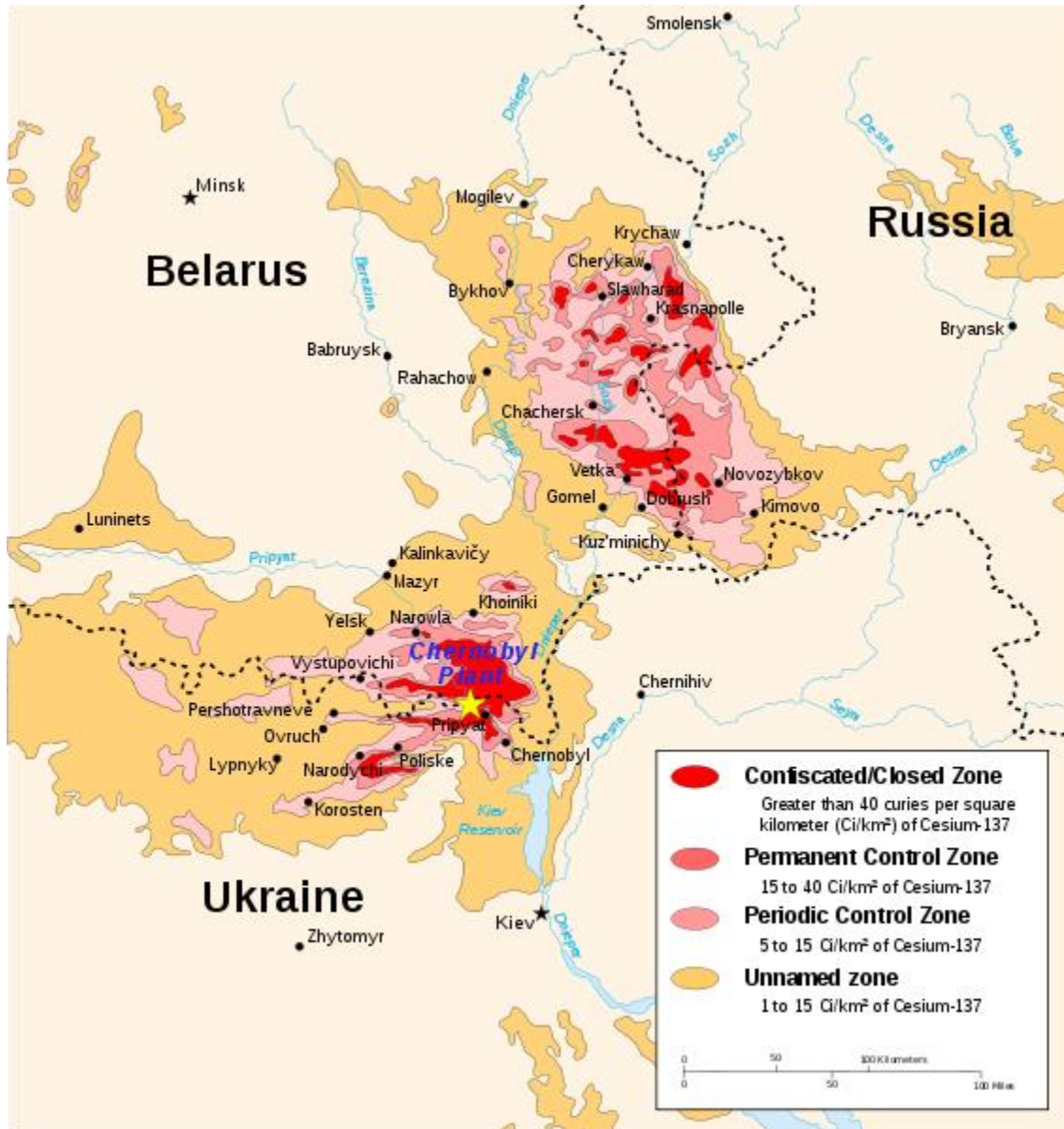
Dr. Richard Gross, one of the head researchers working for NASA, explained that even a difference of 1.8 microseconds is important to his team because it affects the way that spacecraft being sent to Mars are navigated. Not taking the changes into account could increase the chances of failure of the mission. Gross noted that the way the Earth rotates is not very smooth, like an old car wobbling on its axle. The earthquake's effect was as if a person took a hammer and whacked the car's axle, causing it to shift and the car to drive differently. The powerful earthquake hit the Earth's axle, causing it to spin in a slightly different way.

Japan experienced over 1000 aftershocks since the earthquake, with about 60 registering over magnitude 6.0 Mw and at least three over 7.0 Mw. A magnitude 7.7 Mw and a 7.9 Mw quake occurred on 11 March and the third one struck offshore on 7 April with a disputed magnitude. Its epicenter was underwater, 66 km (41 mi) off the coast of Sendai. The Japan Meteorological Agency assigned a magnitude of 7.4 MJMA, while the US Geological Survey lowered it to 7.1 Mw. At least four people were killed, and electricity was cut off across much of northern Japan including the loss of external power to Higashidori Nuclear Power Plant and Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant. Four days later on 11 April, another strong magnitude 6.6 Mw aftershock struck Fukushima, causing additional damage and killing a total of three people.

As of 16 Mar 2012 aftershocks continued, totaling 1887 events over magnitude 4.0; a regularly updated map showing all shocks of magnitude 4.5 and above near or off the east coast of Honshu in the last seven days showed over 20 events.

“So it’s when, not if.”

“That would depend on the remedial action the Japanese take to prevent the release of the ^{137}Cs .”



“The Russians buried their reactor in concrete.”

“Absolutely. That is a map of the Ukraine post Chernobyl. Ukrainian officials estimate the area will not be safe for human life again for another 20,000 years.”

“And people are worried about Global Warming.”

“They should be. Global Warming is just the first step in massive climate changes. Everyone who preps has his or her favorite scenario. I think Carolyn has persuaded me that her version of Doomsday is most likely.”

“I said we’ve had any number of times where food was in short supply that didn’t see armed people in the streets. She retorted with combine that with a short fuel supply preventing deliveries of what food is grown and the Declaration of a National Emergency. Follow that by a gun ban and you WILL see guns involved.”

“That’s what the family as a whole thinks is most likely.”

Of course that was only the most recent major earthquake in Japan. How could people forget the Kobe earthquake which occurred on Tuesday, January 17, 1995 and killed over 6,000? The Kamikaze, were two winds or storms that are said to have saved Japan from two Mongol fleets under Kublai Khan. These fleets attacked Japan in 1274 and again in 1281. Due to growth of Zen Buddhism among Samurai at the time, these were the first events where the typhoons were described as *divine wind* as much by their timing as by their force.

The Kamikaze, were suicide attacks by military aviators from the Empire of Japan against Allied naval vessels in the closing stages of the Pacific campaign of World War II, designed to destroy warships more effectively than was possible with conventional attacks. Numbers quoted vary, but at least 47 Allied vessels, from PT boats to escort carriers, were sunk by kamikaze attacks, and about 300 damaged. About 14% of kamikaze attacks managed to hit a ship.

Would we be hit by another Kamikaze of a different kind when, not if, Japan had another earthquake? There are some things beyond our control and the dire warning about the consequences of another Japanese earthquake was one of those. The saw says *Prepare for the worst and hope for the best*. I pursued Carolyn and that course of action.

In the beginning, she was always ready, day or night, come what may. We fell in love and with her brothers’ blessing got married. She put her house on the market and it eventually sold for her conservative asking price. She converted the proceeds into hard money, silver and gold Eagles. Those were added to her safe that contained her other gold and silver Eagles. Her junk silver was too bulky for the safe and went onto a shelf in the storeroom.

About 13 months after we became an item, I was feeling frisky and she turned me down. She’d never done that before but the next morning when I went to the bathroom

there was a pad wrapped in bath tissue in the trash can. So, I didn't bring it up for several days, letting her take the lead. Eight or nine days later, when I crawled in bed, Carolyn was naked, again. It seemed like she had to make up for lost time, but I was in better shape and made it for 6 rounds.

But I couldn't keep it at that level. We more or less returned to our once or twice a night schedule. It went on and on and pretty soon it dawned on me that we'd been at it for over a month.

"Get you shot renewed?"

"Nope."

"Then what?"

"Next best thing. I'm pregnant."

"We're waiting for Japan's next earthquake to bring on Armageddon and we're expecting?"

"I keep telling you it will be fuel shortages preventing the delivery of food followed by an Assault Weapons Ban and a National Emergency in no particular order that will be the stone that overfills the pot. And then, dear, it's Katy bar the door."

"I'm getting there on my .408 CheyTac."

"You're set; I ordered 10 cases so you have 2,200 rounds coming."

"That should be enough with the supplies that Ruben and I had collected."

"I had him get more bullets, primers and Alliant RL-25 powder. Recommended load for the .408 CheyTac is start with 125.5 grains of RL-25 and adjust."

"We don't need to buy any more of the reloading supplies, we're set."

"Try it, you might like it."

"I'll give Ruben your instructions."

"Don't be like that. Pouting doesn't suit you. Oh, by the way, Mason was able to stock up on M118LR and David got several cases of the Mk 262 Mod 0 that you like so much. I did my share and if we have any cash left over, you might want to place an order with Speer for 9mm and .45acp and or get more of the Brenneke slugs and Remington 3" 12 gauge buckshot."

“I’ll do what I can at the moment on pistol ammo and put all of the next check into shotgun ammo. What do you think 2,000 rounds of Gold Dot in each caliber? If you want more, I’ll only order one caliber at a time.”

“Order 5,000 rounds of each caliber; that will barely be enough. The Company will cover it if we can’t. Order 5 cases of each of the 3 shotgun shells, for starters. We’ll adjust when we know better what our needs are.”

“You’re expecting a Revolution?”

“I wouldn’t go that far, but a revolt for sure.”

In a riveting interview on TruNews Radio, Wednesday, private investigator Doug Hagmann said high-level, reliable sources told him the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is preparing for “massive civil war” in America.

“Folks, we’re getting ready for one massive economic collapse,” Hagmann told TruNews host Rick Wiles.

“We have problems... The federal government is preparing for civil uprising,” he added, “so every time you hear about troop movements, every time you hear about movements of military equipment, the militarization of the police, the buying of the ammunition, all of this is . . . they (DHS) are preparing for a massive uprising.”

Hagmann goes on to say that his sources tell him the concerns of the DHS stem from a collapse of the US dollar and the hyperinflation a collapse in the value of the world’s primary reserve currency implies to a nation of 311 million Americans, who, for the significant portion of the population, is armed.

Uprisings in Greece is, indeed, a problem, but an uprising of armed Americans becomes a matter of serious national security, a point addressed in a recent report by the Pentagon and highlighted as a vulnerability and threat to the US during war-game exercises at the Department of Defense last year, according to one of the DoD’s war-game participants, Jim Rickards, author of Currency Wars: The Making of the Next Global Crisis.

Through his sources, Hagmann confirmed Rickards’ ongoing thesis of a fear of a US dollar collapse at the hands of the Chinese (US treasury bond holders of approximately \$1 trillion) and, possibly, the Russians (threatening to launch a gold-backed ruble as an attractive alternative to the US dollar) in retaliation for aggressive US foreign policy initiatives against China’s and Russia’s strategic allies Iran and Syria.

“The one source that we have I’ve known since 1979,” Hagmann continued. “He started out as a patrol officer and currently he is now working for a federal agency under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security; he’s in a position to know what policies are being initiated, what policies are being planned at this point, and he’s telling us

right now – look, what you’re seeing is just the tip of the iceberg. We are preparing, we, meaning the government, we are preparing for a massive civil war in this country.”

“There’s no hyperbole here,” he added, echoing Trends Research Institute’s Founder Gerald Celente’s forecast of last year. Celente expects a collapse of the US dollar and riots in America sometime this year.

Since Celente’s Civil War prediction of last year, executive orders NDAA and National Defense Resources Preparedness were signed into law by President Obama, which are both politically damaging actions taken by a sitting president.

And most recently, requests made by the DHS for the procurement of 450 million rounds of hollow-point ammunition only fuels speculation of an upcoming tragic event expected on American soil.

These major events, as shocking to the American people as they are, have taken place during an election year.

Escalating preparatory activities by the executive branch and DHS throughout the last decade – from the Patriot Act, to countless executive orders drafted to suspend (or strip) American civil liberties “are just the beginning” of the nightmare to come, Hagmann said.

He added, “It’s going to get so much worse toward the election, and I’m not even sure we’re going to have an election in this country. It’s going to be that bad, and this, as well, is coming from my sources. But one source in particular said, ‘look, you don’t understand how bad it is.’ This stuff is real; these people, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), they are ready to fight the American people.”

TruNews’ Wiles asked Hagmann: who does the DHS expect to fight, in particular? Another North versus South, the Yankees against the Confederates? Hagmann stated the situation is far worse than a struggle between any two factions within the US; it’s an anticipated nationwide emergency event centered on the nation’s currency.

“What they [DHS] are expecting, and again, this is according to my sources, what they’re expecting is the un-sustainability of the American dollar,” Hagmann said. “And we know for a fact that we can no longer service our debt. There’s going to be a period of hyperinflation... the dollar will be worthless... The economic collapse will be so severe; people won’t be ready for this.”

Rick Wiles is modern day Garner Ted Armstrong. Garner Ted Armstrong (February 9, 1930 – September 15, 2003) was an American evangelist and the son of Herbert W. Armstrong, founder of the Worldwide Church of God, at the time a Sabbatarian organization that taught strict observance of seventh-day Sabbath, holy days typically associated with the Jewish faith, and other observances derived from the Old Testament scriptures.

Armstrong initially became recognized when he succeeded his father as the voice of *The World Tomorrow*, the church's radio program that aired around the world. A television program of the same name followed, aired mostly in North America, eventually giving way to a Garner Ted Armstrong broadcast, a half-hour program that mixed news and biblical commentary. His polemical message was unlike that of most other religious broadcasters of his day.

Like each of the possible disasters I've mentioned, believe it or not... your choice. I'm flopping around like a chicken with its head cut off trying to gather up ammo, work about 50 hours a week, help in the garden during the evenings and what not. They replaced my 500 gallon stand tank of biodiesel with a 5,000 gallon buried tank of biodiesel. My 500 gallons and 4,500 more they added. They called the extra 4,500 gallons their business reserve. And expected me to believe it! The empty stand tank was just sitting there, irritating me.

If fuel got short in supply, those 4,500 gallons wouldn't last long if we kept using the heavy equipment. They all had new Cummins non electronic diesel engines in their vehicles and that fuel was their bugout supply for after they bugged out to here. I wasn't that far off the beaten path, just a gravel road and a short dirt stretch. It was time for me to get in the spirit of what they were expecting, a revolt of some kind.

That meant defensive positions and the cave would never do, just because. I walked around with my chin in my hand considering my options. There was no more soil now than when I'd constructed the first part of the shelter. There was a large pile of broken up rock from the blasting and it gave me an idea. We could use the rock to form berms between the dirt road and the parking area; maybe one coming in from each side and another in the center, further down, closer to the road. Rock would produce ricochets and that would be bad so we needed to haul in more soil to cover the rock.

"Mason could I truck one of the cats home this weekend to move some rock?"

"What you planning on building?"

"Berms using all of that blasted out rock."

"Defensive works type of berms?"

"Right."

"Won't work, you'll get ricochets."

The Four Apostles – Chapter 4

“I figured on that, I propose to cover the rock with soil.”

“You don’t have enough soil on your 7 acres to do that.”

“I know that. I figured to have some hauled in.”

“Did you get all of the pistol and shotgun ammo bought?”

“What, the 3 of you take notes and share?”

“My family is close. Things that affect the entire family are shared.”

“These berms are as much to protect your family members as mine. You want to pay for the soil?”

“Pay for it, no; provide it yes. The soil from that basement excavation we’re going to be doing this coming week will come here. You’ll have to get the rock graded over the weekend. Yes that means you can use the dozer.”

“What’s wrong?”

“I asked your brother if I could bring home a cat this weekend to move some rock to build defensive berms. I realized that the rocks could produce ricochets and that they’d have to be buried in soil. In the end, he said yes, but I feel like I was in a boxing match with the Devil. He jumped me about the pistol and shotgun ammo too.”

“Did you answer him?”

“I changed the subject.”

“Bad move. If you had answered him, he’d have seen to it that he got what you didn’t.”

“I managed to get it all.”

“But he’ll assume you didn’t get any and we’ll be doubled up.”

“Would that be a bad thing?”

“You’re starting to sound like TOM.”

“He has a point. Would you rather have it and not need it...”

“...or need it and not have it. Maybe double will be ok, we might need it.”

“Oh, I hope not.”

“Where do I know that from?”

“William Szathmary aka Bill Dana aka José Jiménez. It was his response to Sullivan when he asked him if it was his crash helmet.”

“Sullivan who?”

“Ed Sullivan, the Toast of the Town. It was a variety show that ran on TV starting in 1948.”

“You’re not that old.”

“Dad had a vinyl record, an LP, of some of the José Jiménez routines. He told me about it one time before they died.”

“Is this Bill Dana still around?”

“Are far as I know, he is. I’d put him close to 90.”

“I looked it up, he’s 87. It’s nice to have internet.”

“In your name, not mine. It’s just a thing I have about not leaving any tracks to be followed. That’s why it’s cellphone only and no land line. Besides, they’d probably want 3 or 4 grand to run a line out here.”

“But the police can track cellphone locations by the towers.”

“And get an approximate location. I can’t see any reason why the police would be tracking any of us.”

It was sort of an informal Mutual Aid Group or MAG. No one said the word for fear that the wrong ears would overhear. We were becoming paranoid and the goings on in the 2012 political race weren’t helping.

For one thing, we were just finishing up exercises in the Persian Gulf area with Carrier Strike Groups. We had F15s and F-22s based in a friendly Arab county. Bibi had announced a compromise with one of the other parties and Israel wasn’t going to dismiss the Knesset early. We concluded from that that Israel probably wasn’t planning on striking Iran in the near future.

We didn’t have any select fire firearms. Both the SR-556s and the STG-556s were semi-auto. All were equipped as standard military arms, e.g. with ACOGs and tactical slings but nothing exotic. But, Carolyn made a bad choice, Microtech Small Arms Re-

search filed for Chapter 11 during late 2011. I heard about it and urged her to unload them because there had to be people who wanted the AUG and didn't know about the Chapter 11 filing. She promptly replaced the 3 with SR-556s. If MSAR did resume production, she could always buy new AUGs and if they didn't, so much the better. (MSAR is back in business producing AUGs.)

The sad part was that the MSAR STG-556s had several improvements over the AUG like 1:8 rifling and cosmetic features that made the weapon better than its predecessor. I presumed that Ruger would be around for a while. Ruger had produced a select fire Mini-14 at one time called the AC-556. It features 3 fire modes, semi-auto, burst and full auto. It used the Garand safety as opposed to a fourth, safe position.

Carolyn worked to the beginning of her 8th month and took maternity leave. We continued to stockpile food and essentials but the LTS foods were running into backordering problems. I got on the cell phone to both suppliers, Walton and Emergency Essentials. I inquired why long term customers such as us were being backordered. When they checked my order history and Carolyn's family's order history, we were moved up the list and EE guaranteed delivery within the week. Walton said the order would be ready within a week but they wouldn't ship until they had a truckload.

I asked how long it would take to get ready and was advised a second time within a week. I told them I'd pick it up at their Will Call. I called EE back but the truck had already left. I also called Nitro Pack and asked if they could fill an order. Only for current customers they said. Both ammo orders came in within a day of each other and I took some vacation to drive my Suburban pulling a 16' rented trailer up to Idaho.

I was carrying just shy of 200 gallons of diesel and figured on an average MPG of 12-13. The trailer wasn't enclosed but had side boards so I planned on picking up the order when they opened and driving non-stop to get back home. The trip up took 2 long days. I found a motel and tried to catch up on my sleep for the long drive home. I was loaded and out of Montpelier by 9:30. Since I filled my fuel tanks before picking up the order, I had enough to get home. Fuel was high.

I was through Kansas City and headed home when a replay of an earlier White House address came on the radio.

My fellow Americans

In view of the fuel shortages, I am embargoing all diesel fuel supplies to permit truck operators access to the fuel supplies needed to allow food and other high priority goods to continue to move. Since Iran embargoed further fuel shipments to the US in conjunction with Venezuela we have no choice in the matter.

In conjunction with this, firms whose activities necessitate a fuel supply to conduct business, like construction firms, will be on an allocation system.

We urge the public to engage in carpooling wherever possible. Those persons who choose to engage in carpooling will receive additional fuel supplies after the carpooling is verified.

Others will receive fuel ration coupons redeemable when sufficient fuel supplies are available. We are authorizing release of a portion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve on an ongoing basis. However, the maximum total withdrawal capability from the SPR is 4.4 million barrels per day and it will only last 160 days.

I caution the population to expect shortages in grocery stores and long lines at service stations to the extent the gasoline is available.

Finally, I have issued an Executive Order recall platinum, gold and silver Eagles, initially. Should this recall program not accomplish our goals, the recall will be extended to include numismatics containing the same precious metals.

Thank you and good night

That was the announcement from the White House a little over an hour ago. There have already been runs on grocery stores with panicked buying of whatever is available.

I turned the radio off and got on my 857D.

“Carolyn, Don. Have you heard the news?”

“We have. Where are you?”

“I’m an hour out, give or take. I’m going to detour the towns and cities between here and there so it may take a little longer.”

“Did you remember to take your credit cards?”

“Never leave home without them.”

“I’ll see you when you get here. Clear.”

A prepper would suspect what she was asking, was I armed. I had both Glocks and the Austrian FAL, I was armed.

We didn’t need to go to town for anything, we had enough. I rather suspected that Mason and David had done some last minute shopping. They had a rather small diesel tank that depended on a regular delivery schedule to keep them running. It was the same size as that new biodiesel tank, 5,000-gallons. Ninety minutes later, I pulled in, shut it down and went in to get a hot meal and a cold drink.

“Welcome back. Did you get the full order?”

“I did and I don’t believe we’ll be getting more from them for a while.”

“The Emergency Essentials order came in this afternoon. David got a tip about the announcement and was able to buy 2 18,000-gallon tankers of diesel fuel. The rent on the tankers is a killer, though, and they arranged for a 40,000-gallon double walled fiberglass tank. The powder monkey was out today blasting out the hole. It won’t be buried very deep.”

“You’re about ready to burst.”

“I think the baby settled. I’ve an appointment with Doc tomorrow. He’s a prepper, you know.”

“No, I didn’t know that. You don’t suppose he’d write some prescriptions for some antibiotics and analgesics to be stored here and only used under his direction do you?”

“Got that covered and we have a practice arm so you can learn to start an IV. The only IV solution he’d give us was normal saline. He did write prescriptions for a good assortment of antibiotics and some generic medications for blood pressure, diabetes and other ailments.”

“Did you get instructions on the antibiotic use?”

“If you can call it that, yes. He gave me a printed out copy of TOM’s story *You’ve got to be Kidding me*. He said the first chart was for Cipro and to follow the instructions for other ailments in the later charts.”

“Cipro still a prescription drug?”

“It’s a generic, but prescription only. He gave me a large prescription but cautioned about the black box labels. It can cause muscle damage and tendonitis. You know, all of the drugs he approved were generics.”

“I wonder why?”

“Well, they’re cheaper and have a proven track record. They may not be the latest and greatest but they were all that were available at one time.”

“Maybe I should get more of the ACS bandages.”

“I got you covered. I went through the various kits and updated, replaced and expanded where appropriate. Blood stoppers were a priority. I’m telling you, you’re going to see a revolt.”

With the huge diesel tank installed and filled to capacity, David was able to refill my stand tank with biodiesel. Biodiesel had accounted for the last 4,000-gallons that went into the 40,000-gallon tank, making it B10. Altogether the firm had 50,500 gallons of diesel if one counted my stand tank. On top of that were 31,000-gallons of propane in total. No one but our little group knew the exact disposition of the 36,000-gallons of diesel although the biodiesel producer knew how much he had delivered to our location.

He was another prepper and we counted on his faulty memory to disguise our fuel supplies. He grew soybeans and made money from the crop both ways; soybean meal as livestock feed and biodiesel for his and others' diesel equipment. He generated methane to use in the biodiesel conversion process. He deserved the money, generating methane his way, was very dangerous, biomethanation. He converted the manure from his dairy herd to methane.

They didn't call it a revolt at first, labeling it as civil unrest, primarily in the larger cities. It took on the appearance of a revolt when the President declared a National Emergency, imposed a dusk to dawn curfew and called up the active military. His attempts to federalize the National Guards of the various states fell on deaf ears; the Governors' couldn't spare them.

In order to use the active military, Obama pulled out the George H. W. Bush gambit and declared an Insurrection was in progress. A synonym for Insurrection is Revolt. The Childs family had been correct after all. And to top it off, we were having a baby. Welcome to the 21st Century, Matthew Donald Jennings. He was pink and kind of wrinkled but would outgrow that. We're having a party, the President is calling an Insurrection and we're hunkered down, for the most part.

"He's clipped and Doc says you can come home so shake a leg; it's dangerous here in town."

"Long labor?"

"Does the tired show?"

"I'll say. I was wondering if you thought maybe we should hit one of those ammo supply points and pick up a few things."

"Like what?"

"Maybe some bombs and rockets to begin with. You know, hand grenades and LAWs."

"Why?"

"Just in case."

“Do you know how to use hand grenades or LAW rockets?”

“It can’t be that hard.”

“Why don’t we leave them in the hands of the Missouri Guard who already know how to use them? We have enough firearms and ammo to fight a moderate sized war should it come this way.”

“We’re not long on people.”

“We’re not starting an intentional or unintentional community here on my 7 acres. We don’t have enough food to go around in the first place and the septic system is near max in the second place.”

“You didn’t overbuild?”

“I had trouble enough getting what I have built. That septic system will continuously handle the effluent of a dozen people and no more. With Matthew here, we have 12 souls aboard, our capacity.”

“What if we could get a larger septic tank and extend the leech field?”

“That wouldn’t allow for the food.”

“What if we were able to get the food?”

“I read that story. It was by Jerry D Young about a car dealer and a gal who bought a GMC Topkick 5500 chassis cab from him. It had this strange guy in it, Killany.”

“You’re avoiding the question.”

“I guess I do that at times. Ok, up to the physical capacity of the larger septic system and leech field and the food supply. Were you thinking about some of your employees?”

“No, another like-minded group who has the supplies and travel trailers but lacks a good place to set up.”

“Do you trust them?”

“Like I said, they’re a like-minded group.”

“Now, who is avoiding the question?”

“Ok, mostly. They all have strong personalities but are good people and go to our Church.”

“That wouldn’t be the Worldwide Church of God would it?”

“Plain old Southern Baptist.”

“If you’re willing to vouch for them, I’ll go along with it. Our shelter is only 1,600ft² so if we had to put them in there, it would be awfully crowded.”

“It would be the Christian thing to do.”

“I’d be willing to go down to 50ft² per person and no less. That’s a total population of 32. And they’d have to replace any food they consume.”

“I’ll talk to them.”

The next thing you know, there were trenchers cutting in leech lines and a backhoe digging in a large septic tank, or was it 2? It was 2, one for each side of the tract behind the back defensive berms with the septic on the other side of the berms. They brought in a total of 12 travel trailers. Twelve times two equals twenty four plus 12 equals 36 or 44.4ft² per person.

“Now wait a minute, I said the total population was maxed at 32.”

“Right, they have some singles. Their total population is 20.”

“And if some of those singles get married to an outsider, the population will grow.”

“True, I’ve arranged for another conex.”

“That would allow a maximum of 39, if some were children.”

“Some are children. This is a fairly young group of people and they’ll be fruitful and multiply.”

“Maybe you’d better get 2 more conex and expand the shelter by 640ft².”

“Sleeping quarters?”

“Yeah, male and female bunk rooms. And no Hanoi Jane in the mix or out the whole bunch goes.”

“You can’t dictate what people believe.”

“Watch me, this is my place.”

Interestingly the most common rifle was an AR-15, the poodle shooter. A lot of them were clones with 16” barrels. That was a combination of bad and worse. Some of the

rifles were Mini-14s and Mini-30s, respectable actions with accuracy problems but half-way decent barrels, 18½". Ruger had solved the accuracy problem but the resulting rifle was ugly.

All of the newcomers were pulling their travel trailers with ball mounts and the boxes of the pickups were packed with food; some good along with bad. I hoped they all had some surplus ammo for their rifles and enough high capacity magazines. They did, mostly M855 Lake City surplus and 30 round steel ProMags. Although the plastic magazines sold for half the price, I questioned their durability. Ruger sold the 30 round magazines when they had them in stock, for \$50 each compared to the \$20 for the ProMags. For all the public knew, maybe ProMag manufactured the Ruger mags.

What started in the big cities boiled over until it involved smaller and smaller communities and finally made it to the Ozarks. Missouri is the Show Me state for a reason and the locals don't take kindly to outsiders coming in with intentions on taking and not giving back. A group finally stumbled on my little patch of Heaven and did they ever get a surprise. It wasn't a Gomer Pyle surprise because he was from Mayberry, NC not the Missouri Ozarks

Their surprises took several forms, 5.56, 7.62x39mm, 7.62x51mm, 9mm, .45acp, 12 gauge and in the beginning .408 CheyTac. They didn't even know they'd been shot until the bullet was past them 100 meters at which time they sort of exploded. Lots of energy in that round, and you can take that to the bank.

By then Carolyn was expecting number two and we were both hoping for a girl to round out the set. She said if she had another boy, she'd give it one last shot. Another two seasons and 3 battles later, she gave birth to Mark Mason Jennings; Matthew Donald and Mark Mason, huh? With one barely weaned and a second nursing, it took a little longer before she was expecting again. And after a few battles where the CheyTac turned the opponents into mincemeat, I hung it up and went to the more sedate M-21.

It was much better. Not! The M118LR is 175gr BTHP and blows a pretty good hole when it exits. I learned not to turn the bodies over.

A word about night vision sights because I didn't have one until recently.

The standard I2 night sight, using Gen 2 technology, in service with the US military for many years and still in licensed production and wide use worldwide is the AN/PVS-4, originally produced by Litton (now L-3, via Northrop Grumman) Electro-Optic Systems (EOS). This has been superseded in recent years by the AN/PVS-22 Universal Night Sight (UNS), produced by the Knights Armament Company and, also, by Optical Systems Technology (acquired by FLIR Systems Inc. in 2009). A clip-on device ahead of the weapon's existing day optic, the AN/PVS-22 uses Gen 3 Omnibus VII I2 tubes. With x12 magnification from the day scope, an optimum range in ¼ moonlight conditions against a man-sized target of 1.34 km is claimed.

For sniper use, the AN/PVS-10 from L-3 EOS has been around for some 15 years and was standard fit for the US Army's M24 sniper rifle, while the M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System uses the AN/PVS-26. The M24 and M110 also use the AN/PVS-29 Clip-on Sniper Night Sight. Both AN/PVS-26 and AN/PVS-29 are produced by the Knights Armament Company. In October 2010, when the US Army awarded Remington Arms Company the contract to modify 250 M24 sniper rifles into the XM2010 weapon systems – what the Army calls the *M-24 reconfigured Sniper Weapon System*, the AN/PVS-29 was the specified night sight. According to PEO Soldier, this can recognize a man-sized target at around 600m.

The US Marines, however, adopted the AN/PVS-27 Magnum Universal Night Sight (MUNS), developed from the UNS by Optical Systems Technology (FLIR Systems), for its Scout Sniper Mid-Range Night sight requirement in 2007. With up to 12X magnification from the day scope, under quarter moonlight with optimum contrast, it can detect a man-sized target at some 1,730m. MUNS has also been adopted by the Israel Defense Forces.

Now, I had a choice after a few attacks between the AN/PVS-27 MUNS and the AN/PVS-29 Sniper Night Sight. Given the optimum ranges, the AN/PVS-27 went on the VR-1 and the AN/PVS-29 on the M-21. The AN/PVS-29 was new enough that Optics Planet didn't have them, yet. Are they still around? Must be, their website is up.

Having night vision on my rifles had a downside, I had to pull night watches and turn out for any night actions. It had the upside that other than a green image or whatever in your scope, the enemy seemed less human and you ended up, perhaps, shooting one or two more. That was followed by the second downside, cleaning up the bodies. Of course, we'd read all of the stories by most of the authors and tried about one of everything including a Boot Hill. I guess some of them had never been to Tombstone or Dodge City and they didn't get it.

The *new folks*, as I choose to call them, went out and about scavenging, scrounging and salvaging. Aren't they the same thing? Scavenging has several synonyms, none of which are the other two and I take it to mean searching. Scrounging has several synonyms, all negative that I take to mean opportunistic. Salvaging has several synonyms, more positive that I take to mean reclaiming. A rose by any name would smell as sweet...Romeo and Juliet © William Shakespeare circa 1591.

As long as it was abandoned, I could live with it. If they caused it to be abandoned and I found out about, I'd take them to task and throw out the lot, maybe. I was beginning to waiver, not a good thing. Carolyn being pregnant most of the time with a baby to feed and my needing to change dirty diapers did not have a good effect on my mood at times, either. I was about ready to call *No Más* to the baby birthing business.

Then, we had number 3, Luke David and I tried to lay the law down. Carolyn wanted a daughter so bad I relented on the condition that if the 4th child were a boy, we'd try something else. I failed to realize the bargain I had entered into, her medicine was no

longer available and one of us would have to get clipped. Eleven months later John Paul entered the world in full voice.

“Ok, the deal was if number four was a boy we’d stop.”

“They don’t have my shots available anymore.”

“Well, do I get clipped or you get clipped? I’d really rather not because I know some fellas who had it done and suffered for days.”

“I’m not getting it done.”

“I understand it’s a relative minor procedure for a woman; a little anesthetic, a tiny belly button incision and no more babies.”

“Then I won’t be a whole woman!”

“And if I do it, I won’t be a whole man and suffer besides.”

“I’ll think it over.”

“Keep in mind that I’ll never think of you as a lesser woman; you’ve given me The Four Apostles, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.”

“That should go over well in our Church.”

“Well, I’m a Baptist, just not a Southern Baptist.”

“You are if you expect me to get clipped.”

“Ok, I’m a Southern Baptist.”

Carolyn had managed to avoid picking up much weight with her pregnancies until John. I won’t say she ballooned, but the weight gain was noticeable.

“Darn, my regular clothes won’t fit.”

“I really doubt you’re going to be able to hide the fullness you’ve developed nursing the boys.”

“You’re probably right, but I’m going to give it a shot.”

“You do realize that with all we’ve been through we completely missed December 21, 2012. Nobody saw Nibiru and the planet didn’t end.”

“It sure seems like things have changed.”

The Four Apostles – Chapter 5

“Not as much, Obama is still President.”

“I don’t recall any elections.”

“There’s nothing wrong with your memory, we didn’t have any. He suspended elections until the National Emergency was over.”

“Where are we with that?”

“He’s been forced to pay the US Armed Forces in gold and silver Eagles. I’d speculate that the gold came from Fort Knox but I don’t know where the silver repository is.”

“Fort Knox and the US Mint at West Point hold all the bullion reserves and West Point is the only Mint producing silver, gold and platinum Eagles. There may be a small amount of bullion at the San Francisco Mint for proof sets. You should learn to use the internet.”

“How long did the Civil War last?”

“Four years, April 1861 to April 1865.”

“Darn, this revolt has lasted long than the Civil War. This whole thing of Americans fighting Americans sticks in my craw.”

“Have we gone out looking for trouble? Have we joined in the revolt beyond protecting what is ours?”

“No on both counts.”

“Should we?”

“I assume that would be a group decision.”

“And you’d vote against it?”

“I have you and The Four Apostles to lookout for.”

“We should be careful who we use that expression around. Some might not understand and would be offended by our referring to our four boys as The Four Apostles.”

“They can get happy in the clothes they got mad in.”

“You do have some strange expressions you use from time to time.”

“I just meant...”

“I know what you meant Don, I just think we should be careful who we use the expression around.”

“I will not be dictated to in my own home and neither should you. But, I’ll watch what I say.”

“On to other subjects, then... we need to do something long term about a food supply. I was talking to some of the *new folks* as you call them about farming in the area. With the rolling hills we have here, I didn’t think we could find any place. It turns out that there is a farm in a more or less flat spot in the hills that they found and it’s abandoned.”

“Someone just walk off?”

“No, their bodies were there and both had been shot. Apparently some time back, they were fairly decomposed. They saw cattle and hogs in the fenced in pasture but didn’t bring them back because we don’t really have a place for livestock. I was thinking if we could find someone to farm that ground, we might solve our long term food problems.”

“I don’t know anything about farming, do you?”

“Beyond the fact that cows say moo and pigs oink, I know next to nothing. But some of them seemed to have farming backgrounds from what I gather.”

“What do horses say?”

“Whinny?”

“You know, maybe we could get together with the guy who supplies the biodiesel and see what he thinks about that farm. He could tell us whether or not a person or group could make a go of it and what they should grow.”

“Besides, cattle and hogs, you mean?”

“Well yeah, the livestock needs something to eat besides grass. If I’m not mistaken, he feeds his livestock soybean meal blended with other grains.”

“Is he even still around?”

“I don’t really know. I suppose we should check. Considering how many times we’ve been attacked over nothing, I’d be shocked if his farm hadn’t been the blunt of even more attacks. I should have a word with Mason and David.”

“Let me do that, they’re upset with you. They didn’t believe me when I told them The Four Apostles came about because I wanted a daughter. At least I’m getting my figure back.”

“Boy I’ll say. Can’t fit in your old jeans yet?”

“Almost. I think the dress shirts are a lost cause.”

“They’re not reducing in size with your weight loss?”

“I’m still nursing John. Maybe after, I’ll fit into my old bras.”

“Then you’ll talk to your brothers about the biodiesel guy and that farm?”

“I said I would.”

“We change subjects to your figure and I was just confirming. I’ll get with Ruben and get my brass reloaded. He really stocked up on primers, powder and bullets and can reload the .408 CheyTac, the match grade 7.62x51mm and 5.56x45mm in addition to the 9mm and .45acp. He has Hornady and Sierra bullets for the military rifle calibers and Gold Dot for the pistol calibers.”

“Why haven’t we seen the Guard?”

“They’ve been working their way down according to community size. They finally made it into town but nobody there knows where we live and or didn’t mention us.”

“That’s surprising because we’re probably the most successful enclave in the area.”

“We won’t be if we don’t come up with a food source. With the new babies being born and marriages to outsiders our piece of Heaven has nearly as many people as the remaining population of the town. And, I’ve heard the remaining population is struggling to keep food on the table. They turned the community park into a community garden and took over the greenhouse to ensure year around production. They were trading for meat from that dairy farmer in question.”

“I’ll get with David and Mason immediately, our freezer is almost bare.”

The dairy farmer was still around, farming just as he had been for most of his life. His wife and he had 6 children, 3 boys and 3 girls, all grown and married who lived on the farm. They supplied a ready labor force and security. He had a different attitude than I did; one of his sons had been a driver and gunner on a M3 Bradley and when the troubles started, had borrowed one and several of truckloads of 7.62, 25mm ammo and replacement TOW missiles. The Scout vehicle was parked in a revetment affording it protection against attacks and no attackers had succeeded attacking his farm.

The sons-in-laws provided additional labor and allowed him to take over the adjoining abandoned farm and increase his production. A portion went to the folks in town, but the

majority went into the underground food supply also known as the black market. It wasn't like the traditional black market making scarce goods available at high prices. Instead it supplied those who opposed the government and sold for elevated, but reasonable, prices. Between the food and the biodiesel he produced, he was getting wealthy.

He had his oldest son go with David and one of the *new people* to check out the farm in the hills. The conclusion was that the farm could produce enough grain to support a small herd of livestock which would keep us in meat and enough grain to feed us. They could provide us supplemental soybean meal created from the soybeans grown on the smaller farm and biodiesel from the extracted soybean oil, for half the meal and half the biodiesel.

Since it would be enough biodiesel to keep our tank full, the brothers agreed and the *new people* started farming. That relieved some of the overcrowding that was taking place at our place.

When the military did show up at my acreage, it was the Missouri Guard, not the active duty military. They had an agenda, take a census, check on medical needs, check on food needs and supply additional weapons. The Childs' finally had their bombs and rockets... you know, hand grenades and LAWs.

After hearing the tales of the long series of attacks we'd repelled and our capabilities as snipers, they offered to bring the Childs' into the Guard as Staff Sergeants and me as a Sergeant First Class because of my VR-1 in .408 CheyTac. We declined their generous offer. I later thought I'd been hasty, a Sergeant First Class is an E-7, the same as a Gunnery Sergeant and they make pretty good money. However, Fort Knox is in Kentucky, not Missouri, and the state of Missouri was having a hard time paying the Guard.

The American gold Eagle was 22 carat, consisting of 91.67% Au, 3% Ag and 5.33% Cu. I assume that the silver was included because both gold and copper are relatively soft metals. After Nixon freed up the price of gold, and it reached over \$500/oz. the lowest price since had been in the year 2000 when it traded for ~\$273/oz. (On August 15, 1971, President Nixon imposed a 90-day wage and price freeze, a 10 percent import surcharge, and, most importantly, *closed the gold window*, ending convertibility between US dollars and gold.)

Gold coins are a common way of owning gold. Bullion coins are priced according to their fine weight, plus a small premium based on supply and demand (as opposed to numismatic gold coins which are priced mainly by supply and demand based on rarity and condition).

The Krugerrand is the most widely-held gold bullion coin, with 46,000,000 troy ounces (1,400 metric tons) in circulation. Other common gold bullion coins include the Australian Gold Nugget (Kangaroo), Austrian Philharmoniker (Philharmonic), Austrian 100 Corona, Canadian Gold Maple Leaf, Chinese Gold Panda, Malaysian Kijang Emas, French

Napoleon or Louis d'Or, Mexican Gold 50 Peso, British Sovereign, American Gold Eagle, and American Buffalo. Coins may be purchased from a variety of dealers both large and small. Fake gold coins are not uncommon, and are usually made of gold-plated lead.

The $\frac{1}{10}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, and $\frac{1}{2}$ troy oz. coins are identical in design to the 1 troy oz. coin except for the markings on the reverse side that indicate the weight and face value of the coin (for example, 1 OZ. FINE GOLD~50 DOLLARS).

These bullion coins carry face values of \$5, \$10, \$25, and \$50. These are their legal values reflecting their issue and monetized value as coins. They are legal tender for all debts public and private at their face values. These face values do not reflect their intrinsic value which is much greater and is mainly dictated by their troy weight and the current precious metal price. The oddball coin was the $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce with a face value of \$10 and a gold value of \$12.50 as compared to the \$50 1 ounce coin.

While internet remained up, many of the forums we used to frequent had disappeared. One day, they'd be there and someone would say something outrageous and the next day, you'd get the message that your browser could not display the webpage. Often it was one of those sites with a fiction section where the readers were demanding *MOAR* and sometimes it was a website that had eliminated their fiction section altogether.

There was a movement afoot, passed person to person in face to face meetings only, to deal with the National Emergency. Had Obama been reelected in 2012, his term would have run out on noon of January 20, 2017. It was now May of 2017 and, you guessed it, he was still in charge due to the ongoing National Emergency. As you may recall, that started when Iran and Venezuela stopped oil shipments to the US.

But, did you know that 100% of the Alaskan oil production was now coming to the lower 48? Did you know that because of the National Emergency, the Federal Government had implement oil drilling off the California coast and at the moment the Strategic Petroleum Reserve had been fully refilled with light sweet crude... to capacity? They were opening additional salt domes to hold the surplus crude because we had more crude than refining capacity. A half million barrels here, quarter million there, it was adding up.

Control of the SPR had been taken over totally by the federal government and only government employees were involved in any way with the handling of the SPR. More diesel was being allocated for industrial use, if the user knew to apply for the allocation. But they didn't put that information out for public dissemination, so who knew? There was more gasoline available too, but the information was suppressed and the price of gas was out of reach of nearly everyone because... they were unemployed.

After the initial round of looting way back when, the stores were resupplied and military guards stationed to prevent further looting. But most people didn't buy food because... they were unemployed. *Oh! What a tangled web we weave... When first we practice to deceive!* – Sir Walter Scott

And, the looting spread, but the military couldn't be everywhere at once.

That fact was in the forefront of the looters minds and most of the time they managed to stay one or two steps ahead of the military. When they didn't, they learned that the Orders *Looters will be shot on sight* were really true. Remember, the DHS procured 450 million rounds of hollow-point ammunition. Lake City was running at full capacity and none of it was ending up as surplus, not even those odd lot end-of-run rounds that ended up in mixed cases of loose XM193/XM855/XM80 ammo sold by Ammoman and others. X denoted ammo that Federal was permitted to sell at retail. One had to check for the Lot number and production year. Avoid the old stuff, it was Winchester.

It might have been nice to have but we really didn't need it unless Ruben ran out of components or died. We didn't have any empty boxer primed brass at the moment. When we were approached by a member of *the movement*, it was nothing like those scenes Grand portrayed in *Normal*. He showed up one morning and asked to speak to whoever was in in charge; his name was George and he was from *the movement*.

"We actual tend to govern as a family affair. I own the property and my wife and her two brothers offer their opinions."

"An even number? What do you do when you're evenly divided?"

"That's called a pass and an automatic no. What can we do for you George?"

"Has the Guard been around?"

"Maybe... maybe not. Like I said, what can we do for you George?"

"Have you heard of *the movement*?"

"Tell us about it."

"It's mostly made up of preppers, survivalist and patriots. This is a Constitutional Republic... always has been and we aim to see it continue as the same. The President has now served more than two terms in office and we know for a fact that there is no fuel shortage and there's adequate fuel available. As long as he keeps the population unemployed, nothing is going to change. What I'm saying is that the original National Emergency has been over for some time.

"For whatever reason, he is keeping it going and refuses to relinquish power. It is past time we had local, state and national elections, which have been suspended because of the supposed National Emergency.

"Y'all don't seem to be suffering. I didn't notice anyone that looked underfed. I did see everyone with one weapon or more. The folks in town told me that me that you've suc-

cessfully repelled every attack with no losses on your side. They mentioned you having several snipers among your group preventing attackers from getting close enough to be effective.”

“They talk too much.”

“Is what they told me true?”

“Yep.”

“Would you be interest in joining *the movement* or should I save my breath?”

“I reckon we could discuss it and get back to you.”

“How about I talk to another group and get back with you in 5 days?”

Mason and David gave slight nods and Carolyn didn’t react.

“Sounds good; see you in 5 days.”

George left and I looked at the 3 family members.

“Well?”

“I’m for it,” Carolyn replied.

“I’d like to talk it over Doreen,” Mason said.

“Carmen would kill me if I didn’t include her in the decision,” David mused.

“Where do you stand on this Don?”

“I’m tempted but I have Carolyn and The Four Apostles to consider.”

“If we do this, I’ll be included and Doreen and Carmen can look after the boys. In the unlikely event something happens to both of us, the family will see to their needs. Don’t let the 5 of us hold you back from doing what you really want to do.”

“I never liked him from the beginning and that’s why I voted to McCain and Sarah Who.”

“Palin.”

“I heard Putin.”

“No, that’s the Russian.”

“How come we haven’t been invaded, had Peacekeepers brought in or been nuked?”

“Why bother? Obama is doing more damage than all those combined. If anyone did any of those things the American public would come together as they always have and respond in force.”

“I don’t want to create a tie vote, but I’m with Carolyn. But the four of us only speak for the families. Someone needs to speak to the *new people*.”

“I’ll do that if Doreen says yes.”

“Meet tomorrow and see where we stand?”

“Let’s do that.”

“Ok, where do we stand?”

“Together. I checked with the new people and 11 males and 2 single females are aboard. We may have to provide some Main Battle Rifles, most of the ammo and LBE.”

“How many Loaded models do we have?”

“Three plus your Austrian FAL.”

“Any chance we can get more?”

“I think I can get my hands on some standard models and 2 PTR-91s.”

“Enough to go around?”

“I think so. Why?”

“The further we can shoot, the better off we’ll be. We won’t be fighting in jungles although the 5.56 might a nice backup weapon. As far as I’m concerned the further we are from the OpFor, the better.”

“You make it sound like we’ll be out there on our own.”

“I imagine we will be much of the time. We’ll know better after we get more information on *the movement*.”

“Decide yet?”

“Yes we have. We will get involved and supply a force of 14 men and 3 women. The force will be equipped with Main Battle Rifles with 5.56 backup rifles. 12 gauge shot-guns and .45acp handguns. We have 5 sniper rifles but only 4 sniper qualified shooters. We’ll see if any of our new people might be sniper qualified.”

“What do you mean by sniper qualified? Do you mean military trained snipers?”

“No, I’m talking about people with 7.62 or larger caliber rifles who can shoot under 1MOA to the effective range of the weapon.”

“What do you have for sniper weapons?”

“One VR-1 in .408 CheyTac, 1 M-21 and 3 Super Match’s; all equipped with day and night vision, suppressors, bipods and using match grade ammo.”

“Which ammo?”

“Mainly M118LR.”

“We can get you more of that. Can’t help you on the .408 CheyTac.”

“I have plenty of that, both factory and reloads.”

“We usually see several people within a group with single action revolvers and lever action rifles.”

“We don’t have anyone into Single Action Shooting. Those are weapons of last resort.”

“Do you have the equipment you need? Backpacks, LBE, water purification and so forth?”

“We even have enough Mountain House single and double entrees, freeze dried fruit and so forth to last us for nearly 2 years.”

“You need any hand grenade or rockets?”

“What are you offering?”

“LAW M72A7, up to 10 rockets per person; 12 M67 frags per person, 3 Mk3A2 concussions and 3 M14 Thermate per person; 3 colors of smoke, red, green and white.”

“Enough for 17 people?”

“It will be a stretch, but we’ll do it.”

“Where and when?”

“I need a frequency on the 40 meter band. We’ll call twice. The first call will be the latitude and date. The second call will be the longitude and the time. It will be within 100 miles of this location. You provide your own security and satisfy yourselves it’s not a trap. You get the weapons and ammo when you arrive.”

“How much time do we have to get ready?”

“One week.”

“Who has a portable GPS?”

“I do,” I replied, “a Garmin Foretrex 401 wrist receiver. It doesn’t have many features but will give us our location and electronic compass bearings. I hope we have enough batteries, it eats them.”

“I have 4,” Carolyn announced, “one for each... of the boys.”

I think she bought the 4, a while back. One for her, one for her 1st husband and 2 for the 2 children she wanted at the time. It was ok; I had 2 of the Foretrex 401s because I didn’t totally trust the GPS and wanted a backup. Why did I need an M-21 when I already had a STG-58? Because I wanted one? Why did I need to spend ten grand on a VR-1 when I already had an M-21? It had the range of a .50BMG and weighed 18 pounds. I didn’t know about the ammo until later. I don’t make excuses although I do have explanations.

“Are you sure I can’t talk you out of this Carolyn?”

She just stared at me.

“I didn’t think so. Here, wear this.”

“What is it?”

“An Improved Outer Tactical Vest in MultiCam with E-SAPI and ESBI plates. I also have a MICH helmet with MultiCam cover. Sorry, I couldn’t get the Enhanced Combat Helmets. The helmets have the AN/PVS-14 Monocular Night Vision sights mounted using an adapter. Everything I purchased before things went to crap is in the MultiCam cammo pattern.”

The Four Apostles – Chapter 6

“You’re going to get us killed. These... partisans will conclude we’re military and take us out.”

“We’ll wear identifying patches to prevent that. They must have some people in uniform and have made preparations for dealing with that situation.”

“I’m wearing jeans and my jeans jacket until we find out. I’ve weaned John and he’s on a bottle now. I’m uncomfortable but it won’t last.”

“I have the same for myself and will be wearing it. I’m only taking a few changes of civvies, just in case. Never been a soldier, sailor, airman or Marine but it might be fun playacting. And, we have way more of that ordnance than anyone knows. It could come in handy or it might just be a load of deadweight we’re hauling around. Are we taking my Suburban or your Jeep?”

“I think maybe the Jeep, it gets better mileage. Where did you haul 200 gallons of fuel when you went to Idaho?”

“I have 2 50-gallon after-market tanks plus a 100-gallon conformal tank in the back bed of the Suburban. That’s why when you lean the seats forward you have essentially a level surface.”

“I was thinking of those cross bed tanks and there wasn’t a cross bed tank.”

“I’d have used one of those if I had a Silverado.”

“The Jeep can’t carry that much fuel. It has a replacement tank, a Dorman fuel tank with a capacity of 38 gallons.”

“I’m going to get a trailer we can pull and set it up with 6 drums of biodiesel.”

The total weight of the biodiesel in drums would be ~2,600 pounds. Everything else we were taking would go in the trailer with the 6 drums, and probably push to total load to 2 tons. That trailer would be an accident waiting for a place to happen with the diesel fuel and ordnance aboard. I borrowed a U-Haul enclosed trailer.

“Houston, we have a problem.”

“What’s up?”

“Although I can overload the trailer, your Jeep can’t handle the load. My Suburban can and it has a load compensating hitch. We can omit 2 barrels of biodiesel and lighten the load by about 1,600 pounds and have enough range with my onboard fuel load.”

“So *do it!*”

Haven't I heard that before? Hasn't it worked out so far? Oh, I didn't hear it; I read it in TOM's story. The one Doc gave Carolyn with the antibiotics data.

The first message said 37.948889 070817. The second message said -91.763056 070000. Rolla, Missouri on 7Aug17 at 7am. That was approximately 80 miles from our location. We left at 0530 so we had some time to look around before the meet. We didn't see any signs of an ambush and drove to the specified coordinates where we found George waiting.

“You really need this much stuff?”

“We didn't know what the mission was and didn't want to forget something we might need. What's your pleasure?”

“A recon mission in the Sullivan area.”

“That's what, 40 miles?”

“It is on I-44. But you won't be using the interstate. You're going to need to string those vehicles out to prevent a dust cloud. The Army has a camp in Merrimac State Park on State 185 next to the Merrimac River.”

“What kind of camp?”

“A FEMA Camp.”

“A FEMA Camp? I feel like I woke up in the middle of a bad dream.”

“The camp is no dream I'm not joking. It's one of four set up in Missouri. We intend to take them all out at once. Do you have more of the MultiCam?”

“Only enough for Carolyn and I. It includes Improved Outer Tactical Vests in MultiCam with E-SAPI and ESBI plates. I also have MICH helmets with MultiCam cover. The helmets have the AN/PVS-14 Monocular Night Vision sights mounted.”

“The guy in charge is a Sergeant, E-5. How about we supply more sets of gear and give you those Velcro rank patches for a Master Sergeant, Sergeant First Class and 2 Staff Sergeants? The remainder will be PFCs. They only have a staff of 15 so you will outnumber them. We'll dummy up orders indicating you're conducting an inspection tour. You get in and simply take over. That's much better than a simple recce. The Guard will loan us some HMMWVs.”

“They involved in this?”

“Not directly, no. Where did you think we got the LAWs and grenades, steal them? They’ve been known to turn a blind eye, when needed. The feds are resupplying the state National Guard units to free up what remaining personnel they have for other duties.”

“Wholesale desertions?”

“No, not wholesale. Someone goes missing from time to time and turns up back in his or her hometown complete with family, if they have one. The universal complaint is that it doesn’t seem right for Americans to be fighting Americans. Another comment often heard is that they didn’t volunteer for the service to fight a Civil War.

“We have intercepted food shipments to that camp but let them go when we learned the destination. Something isn’t right, from time to time more people are brought in but the overall population is stable. Why isn’t it increasing?”

“Why haven’t you done something before now?”

“We’re barely getting started and are spread so thin we’re nearly transparent. Your group nearly doubles our total force. With you folks we’re just short of 50 people.”

We agreed to take on the mission. The family decided I should be the Master Sergeant due to my disposition. Carolyn would be the Sergeant First Class since her disposition wasn’t far removed from mine. Mason and David would be the Staff Sergeants and the *new people* either PFCs or Corporals.

Weapons of choice would be the SR-556s and AR-15 clones. We had more than enough to go around. The best they could supply for body armor was Interceptor, but, it was MultiCam. Many of the helmets were the original PASGT helmets, but they had the right look. We decided that since we were on a military mission, we’d stand out more if we didn’t use I-44.

“I’m Master Sergeant Jenkins. I want to see whoever is in charge of this excuse for a detention camp.”

“Orders, Sergeant?”

“You can read? Here, read these.”

“You wait here and I’ll get Sergeant Dobson.”

“I’m Sergeant Dobson, what can I do for you?”

“You can start explaining Dobson. These people look half-starved to death. I have copies of the invoices of what’s been sent. How do you explain what I see? Open that gate and let us in. We’ll discuss this when we’ve completed our inspection.”

“What inspection?”

“He didn’t tell you? Here are my orders; read them and stand aside.”

“They seem legitimate. Open the gate and let them in.”

“My people will relieve your people in the towers, we want to interview everyone.”

“This is highly irregular!”

“I couldn’t agree more!”

Mason went around with a group of the *new people* and relieved the guards in the towers. In the process, they were relieved of their weapons. When we had all 15 of them together in one spot, I announced, “Surprise, surprise, surprise Sgt. Dobson, we’re the OpFor. You people are under arrest!”

The cable ties were brought out, the soldiers restrained and the gates to the camp swung open. The people seemed to be afraid to move. One of the soldiers, a Corporal, said, “The food is in the Cavern.”

“Ok folks, listen up. I have just been informed that the food is in the Cavern. Help yourselves to all you can carry, find a vehicle with fuel and return home.”

“Their weapons are in the Armory,” the Corporal added.

“This Corporal will show you where your weapons and ammunition are stored. Corporal, you go with Staff Sergeant Childs and show them the armory. Mason, cut his bindings.”

“I should have known.”

“What’s that Sergeant Dobson?”

“The .45s, they’re only issued to Special Force Operators.”

“You should have looked at the rifles closer too, they’re a combination of SR-556s and AR-15s.”

“You aren’t getting a bargain with our M4s and A2s, they’re practically worn out.”

“We’ll have an armorer go through them and make needed repairs.”

“What is going to happen to us?”

“We’re going to turn you over to *the movement* and let them decide.”

“I was only following orders.”

“So was he.”

“Who?”

“Adolph Eichmann.”

“Who?”

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

“What are you talking about?”

“History repeats itself. Adolph Eichmann was a Nazi who was responsible for millions of deaths of Jews during World War Two. He fled to Argentina where the Mossad later captured him and took him to Israel to stand trial. His defense was that he was only following orders. They hanged him.”

TOM was right. We improvised, adapted and overcame. I got to quote George Santayana to Sergeant Dobson. I wonder what ever became of him. We were involved in clearing out the other 3 camps and Missouri was free of FEMA Camps but not free otherwise.

But as I said, there was a movement afoot. It went by various names in various places. I was surprised it had taken as long as it had to occur. Like Alexander Hamilton said, *Those who stand for nothing fall for anything*. Ben Stein said, *Nothing happens by itself... it all will come your way, once you understand that you have to make it come your way, by your own exertions*.

Stein also said after Mark Felt’s identity as Deep Throat had been revealed:

Can anyone even remember now what Nixon did that was so terrible? He ended the war in Vietnam, brought home the POWs, ended the war in the Mideast, opened relations with China, started the first nuclear weapons reduction treaty, saved Eretz Israel's life, started the Environmental Protection Administration. Does anyone remember what he did that was bad? Oh, now I remember. He lied. He was a politician who lied. How remarkable. He lied to protect his subordinates who were covering up a ridiculous burglary that no one to this date has any clue about its purpose. He lied so he could stay in office and keep his agenda of peace going. That was his crime. He was a peacemaker and he wanted to make a world where there was a generation of peace. And he succeeded. That is his legacy. He was a peacemaker. He was a lying, conniving, covering

up peacemaker. He was not a lying, conniving drug addict like JFK, a lying, conniving war starter like LBJ, a lying, conniving seducer like Clinton – a lying, conniving peacemaker.

We had stayed at home taking care of what we had and in so doing were the embodiment of what Ben Stein had been talking about. The issue that Knowledge is Power hadn't arisen, yet. And, when we'd finally gotten involved, it was like we had an angel on our shoulder clearing the way.



It seems that Jerry made up a Logo for TOM and I stumbled across it. It incorporated TOM's essence, his pals, his dislike of Geraldo, and his Gunny Highway moment. The Latin was *Knowledge is Power*. I think he is probably still around, he's too contrary to die and would give the Angel of Death the middle finger when He showed up. That angel would only catch him if he were asleep.

Did he keep his firearms or give them to his son? He freely admitted that his Loaded was almost too heavy for him to pick up, especially with those illegal 20-round magazines. His 590A1 was even heavier with 9 rounds inside, 15 in the sling, 6 in the side saddle and 6 more on the buttstock. He alluded to his rig as having a standard M1911 leather holster, 3 double magazine pouches with 2 holding Rambo 1 in place on the left side.

Another time he mentioned stainless steel 1 quart GI canteens with stainless cup and stainless stove. Did he acquire those? There was no way TOM could keep the stuff without ALICE suspenders, so he probably had those. Did he have a butt pack or utility pouches for a few essentials or an ALICE pack for a couple of meals?

We had his CD and downloaded new stories from Jerry's website as they were posted. The same applied for Jerry, we had his CD and downloaded new stories as they were posted.

There was more to do, 47 additional states had movements doing what we had done in Missouri. Several had already accomplished their goals and had begun to help adjoining states. How could we do any less? Maybe it wasn't an angel but The Four Apostles...

By the end of the 2nd century the tradition of Matthew the tax-collector had become widely accepted, and the line *The Gospel According to Matthew* began to be added to manuscripts. For many reasons most scholars today doubt this – for example, the gospel is based on Mark, and *it seems unlikely that an eyewitness of Jesus's ministry, such as Matthew, would need to rely on others for information about it* – and believe instead that it was written between about 80–90 AD by a highly educated Jew (an *Israelite*, in the language of the gospel itself), intimately familiar with the technical aspects of Jewish law, standing on the boundary between traditional and non-traditional Jewish values. The disciple Matthew was probably honored within the author's circle, as the name Matthew is more prominent in this gospel than any other.

According to tradition and some early church writers, the author is Mark the Evangelist, the companion of the apostle Peter. The gospel, however, appears to rely on several underlying sources, varying in form and in theology, and which tells against the tradition that the gospel was based on Peter's preaching. Various elements within the gospel, including the importance of the authority of Peter and the breadth of its basic theology, suggest that the author wrote in Syria or Palestine for a non-Jewish Christian community which had earlier absorbed the influence of pre-Pauline beliefs and then developed them further independent of Paul.

Luke, is the third and longest of the four canonical Gospels. This synoptic gospel is an account of the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. It details his story from the events of his birth to his Ascension. The author is traditionally identified as Luke the Evangelist. The Apostle Paul referred to Luke as the beloved physician. Certain popular stories, such as the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan, are found only in this gospel. This account also has a special emphasis on prayer, the activity of the Holy Spirit, women, and joyfulness. Luke presented Jesus as the Son of God, but turned his attention especially to the humanity of Jesus, featuring His compassion for the weak, the suffering and the outcast. Many believe *the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles* originally constituted a two-volume work, which scholars refer to as Luke-Acts

The Gospel of John or simply John and often referred to in New Testament scholarship as the Fourth Gospel, is an account of the public ministry of Jesus. It begins with the witness and affirmation by John the Baptist and concludes with the death, burial, Resurrection, and post-Resurrection appearances of Jesus. This account is fourth of the canonical gospels, after the synoptics Matthew, Mark and Luke. Chapter 21 states it derives from the testimony of the *disciple whom Jesus loved*. Along with Peter, the unnamed disciple is especially close to Jesus, and early-church tradition identified him as

John the Apostle, one of Jesus' Twelve Apostles. The gospel is closely related in style and content to the three surviving Epistles of John such that commentators treat the four books together.

(I borrowed those and selectively edited them.)

Paul the Apostle, variously referred to as the *Apostle Paul* or *Saint Paul*, also known as Saul of Tarsus, is perhaps the most influential early Christian missionary. The writings ascribed to him by the church form a considerable portion of the New Testament. The influence on Christian thinking of the epistles ascribed to him has been significant, due in part to his association as a prominent apostle of Christianity during the spreading of the Gospel through early Christian communities across the Roman Empire.

According to the writings in the New Testament, Paul was known as Saul prior to his conversion, and was dedicated to the persecution of the early disciples of Jesus in the area of Jerusalem. While traveling from Jerusalem to Damascus on a mission to *bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem*, the resurrected Jesus appeared to him in a great light. Saul was struck blind, but after three days his sight was restored by Ananias of Damascus, and Paul began to preach that Jesus of Nazareth is the Jewish Messiah and the Son of God.

Along with Simon Peter and James the Just he was one of the most prominent early Christian leaders. Fourteen epistles in the New Testament are traditionally attributed to Paul. His authorship of seven of the fourteen is questioned by modern scholars. Augustine of Hippo developed Paul's idea that salvation is based on faith and not *works of the law*. Martin Luther's interpretation of Paul's writings heavily influenced Luther's doctrine of sola fide.

Paul's conversion dramatically changed the course of his life. Through his missionary activity and writings he eventually transformed religious belief and philosophy around the Mediterranean Basin. His leadership, influence and legacy led to the formation of communities dominated by Gentile groups that worshiped the God of Israel, adhered to the *Judaic moral code*, but relaxed or abandoned the ritual and dietary teachings of the Law of Moses, that these laws and rituals had either been fulfilled in the life of Christ or were symbolic precursors of Christ, all on the basis of Paul's teachings of the life and works of Jesus Christ and his teaching of a New Covenant, or *new testament*, established through Jesus' death and resurrection. The Bible does not record Paul's death.

Fourteen epistles in the New Testament are attributed to Paul. Seven of these – Romans, 1st Corinthians, 2nd Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1st Thessalonians and Philemon – are almost universally accepted as being actually written by Paul. Scholars generally agree that four others were not written by Paul, those being 1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy, Titus, and Hebrews. As to the remaining three – Ephesians, Colossians and 2nd Thessalonians – scholars are almost evenly divided. Of those written by Paul, all except Galatians appear to have been dictated through a secretary, who would paraphrase the message, as was the practice among 1st-century scribes. The epistles were

circulated in the Christian community and read aloud by church members along with other works. Paul's epistles were viewed from early times as scripture and later established as Canon of Scripture. Critical scholars regard Paul's epistles, which were written between 50 and 62 AD, to be the earliest books of the New Testament. They are referenced as early as c. 96 by Clement of Rome.

Paul wrote down much of the theology of atonement. Paul taught that Christians are redeemed from the Law and from sin by Jesus' death and resurrection. His death was an expiation (atonement) as well as a propitiation (appeasement), and by Christ's blood peace is made between God and man. By baptism, a Christian shares in Jesus' death and in his victory over death, gaining as a free gift a new, justified status of sonship. Paul's theology of the gospel accelerated the separation of the messianic sect of Christians from Judaism, a development contrary to Paul's own intent. He wrote that the faith of Christ was alone decisive in salvation for Jews and Gentiles alike, making the schism between the followers of Christ and mainstream Jews inevitable and permanent. He argued that Gentile converts did not need to become Jews, get circumcised, follow Jewish dietary restrictions, or otherwise observe Mosaic laws. Nevertheless, in Romans he insisted on the positive value of the Law, as a moral guide.

But then, we stopped after 4 boys so we named John after the Pope, John Paul. Since I've never been ordained or whatever I better get on with what happened. There's not much to tell, Americans by definition object to being treated as slaves and revolted. It was like what Carolyn said, "If anyone did any of those things the American public would come together as they always have and respond in force."

One by one, the partisans and state Guards subdued the active duty military, what remained of them. With his power base eliminated, Obama declared the National Emergency over. During a transition period, the feds would supply food and fuel and federal backing to restart business firms forced out of business due to the emergency. However he didn't sign the legislation repealing National Healthcare or the weapons ban. Neither did he reverse the platinum, gold or silver recalls.

Several US firearms manufacturers relocated their factories and began cranking out guns without serial numbers. It was not without risk. Ruger concentrated on Mini-14s, Mini-30s and SR-556s. Colt moved most of their operations to Canada as did FN and Heckler and Koch.

A free man must not be told how to think, either by the government or by social activists. He may certainly be shown the right way, but he must not accept being forced into it. – Lt Col Jeff Cooper

When it came down to the finale, nobody could find Barack, Michelle, Malia Ann or Natasha, anywhere. You do know that besides his native English, Obama speaks Indonesian at the conversational level, which he learned during his four childhood years in Jakarta.

The Four Apostles – Chapter 7

Did what he did rise to the level of high crimes and misdemeanors? Some said yes and about as many said no. Most everyone wanted to talk to the man to get his side of what had happened. Some were inclined to give him a pass if the explanation was satisfactory while others wanted to string him up. Eventually they tracked them down to leaving for Australia on a Qantas flight. From there, the trail turned cold. It was as if they'd dropped off the face of the earth.

Back home in the states, new elections at the local, county, state and federal level were held. While the Democratic Party didn't totally take it on the chin, they held less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the House and Senate. The new president was a conservative Reagan style Republican and his vice president came from the same mold. During his inaugural address he promised to undo some of the changes made by the government over the years. He was especially popular with the NRA crowd.

In view of the recent past, two categories of laws were the initial targets, firearm laws and criminal laws. Draft legislation was introduced repealing all federal firearms laws back to and including the National Firearms Act of 1934, with exceptions. The favorable provisions of the Firearms Owners Protection Act of 1986 were retained. George H. W. Bush's Executive Order and subsequent legislation were rescinded in the case first and repealed in the case of the second. The 11% excise tax was retained.

While the first round of changes sailed through the Congress with relative ease, the same couldn't be said for the proposed changes to the criminal laws. Congress got sidetracked on repealing Obama's National Healthcare Law. While certain subcommittees worked on the criminal law reform, others worked on repealing most of the provisions of National Healthcare.

Most Americans had come to depend on Social Security and related laws like Medicare and Medicaid. As part of the repeal of National Healthcare, the entire Federal Insurance Contributions Act tax was reviewed and brought into the 21st Century. Provisions like the retirement age, provisions for contributions and most everything else were on the table. This was one piece of Socialist legislation that would remain on the books and be self-sustaining. These were mighty big words considering the state of the world economy.

The Healthcare law reform and FICA laws were completed before the end of the second year of the House of Representatives terms. There was food on the shelves of grocery stores at affordable prices. Regular gasoline (gasohol, 10%) was selling, nationally, for an average of \$2.499 per gallon. Biodiesel production had been ramped up and most diesel fuel was B-20. The biomass left after producing alcohol and biodiesel made excellent livestock feed and the price of meat was slowly falling.

The firearms laws exceptions mentioned included a rewrite of the 2nd Amendment from whatever is said to what it was supposed to say, written as two enumerated provisions.

The right to carry arms was an inalienable right that could not be barred at any level of government, federal, state, county or city. Reasonable universal regulation was authorized including a NCIS background check before firearms could be purchased or concealed carry permits issued. Fees for permits were limited in any case.

Those changes to the 2nd Amendment were ratified, barely, and immediately challenged in federal district court.

No *firearm* could be banned because it fired too many shots with a single pull of the trigger or was semi-auto with a flashhider, high capacity magazine or muffled the sound of a shot or was too large of a caliber. Most people couldn't afford a .50 caliber rifle, reducing the impact of that provision. The prohibition against dangerous devices was retained to a greater extent because who needed rockets or hand grenades?

A little noticed law related to Congress passed without comment. No person could serve for more than a total of 12 years in Congress. Translation: 2 terms in the Senate or 3 terms in the House plus 1 Senate term. Congress was no longer a career. Executive Orders were still permitted and subject to review by the Senate and the Supreme Court because they were essentially backdoor legislation.

And, despite the changes it took time for the mentality of the country to change back to what it had been right after World War I. If one stops and analyzes what happened, Congress was responsible for the Gangster era of Capone and the others. Prohibition was instituted with ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution on January 16, 1919, which prohibited the *...manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States...* Congress passed the *Volstead Act* on October 28, 1919, to enforce the law, but most large cities were uninterested in enforcing the legislation, leaving an understaffed federal service to go after bootleggers. Although alcohol consumption did decline, there was a dramatic rise in organized crime in the larger cities, which now had a cash crop that was in high demand.

Prohibition became increasingly unpopular during the Great Depression. The repeal movement was started by a wealthy Republican, Pauline Sabin, who said that prohibition should be repealed because it made the US a nation of hypocrites and undermined its respect for the rule of law. Her fellow Republicans were put in office by the *drys* and, even though they eagerly partook in consumption of alcoholic beverages at her parties, in public they presented themselves as opposing the repeal of prohibition, lest they be thrown out of office by the dry voting blocks. This hypocrisy and the fact that women led the prohibition movement convinced her to start the organization that eventually led to the repeal of prohibition. When her fellow Republicans would not support her efforts, she went to the Democrats, who changed from *drys* led by conservative Democrats and Catholics to supporting repeal led by liberal politicians such as La Guardia and Franklin Roosevelt. She, and they, emphasized that repeal would generate enormous sums of much needed tax revenue, and weaken the base of organized crime. The Repeal of Prohibition in the United States was accomplished with the passage of the Twenty-first

Amendment to the United States Constitution on December 5, 1933. By its terms, states were allowed to set their own laws for the control of alcohol. The organized Prohibition movement was dead nationwide, but survived for a while in a few southern and border states.

Did you ever ask yourself why Congress passed the National Firearms Act of 1934? Gangsters were using automatic weapons in the form of the BAR (Clyde Barrow) and the Thompson submachine gun (everyone else). The maxim silencer had been around a few years and occasionally a gangster used one. They couldn't completely outlaw full-auto weapons but they could tax them. Two hundred dollars was a lot of money in 1934.

How many crimes were committed in California using .50BMG rifles? None. Is that because they were outlawed before someone had the chance? Not hardly, Barrett began his work in the early 1980s and the first working rifles were available in 1982, hence the designation M82. Barrett designed every single part of the weapon personally and then went on to market the weapon and mass produce it out of his own pocket. He continued to develop his rifle through the 1980s, and developed the improved M82A1 rifle by 1986.

In California it is illegal to possess, import, or purchase assault weapons and .50 BMG rifles, unless such weapons were acquired by the owner prior to June 1, 1989. Legally defined assault weapons and .50 BMG rifles listed by make and model by the DOJ must be registered. Their sale and transfer is prohibited. Military look-alike rifles that are not chambered for .50 BMG and are not on the DOJ roster are legal to purchase or possess, with some restrictions in configuration – known as *banned features*. Active-duty military members residing out of state and assigned to duty in California may bring personally-owned assault weapons into the state. The military member's residence must be in a state that permits private citizens to own and possess assault weapons, and the firearms must be registered with the California Department of Justice prior to the service member's arrival in California by submitting the registration form with a copy of the member's Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders.

Well, no more! Conform or lose all federal funding for everything. With a budget deficit well over \$20 billion, the state of California didn't have a choice. Jerry Brown was in his second term of his second go around and he had to sign the legislation. I bet that broke Governor Moonbeam's heart. In 1979, an out-of-state columnist, Mike Royko, then at the Chicago Sun-Times, picked up on the nickname from Brown's girlfriend at the time, Linda Ronstadt, who was quoted in a 1978 Rolling Stone magazine interview humorously calling him *Moonbeam*.

We did register our suppressors and paid the \$10 fee for each one, ex post facto.

In the United States, the federal government is prohibited from passing ex post facto laws by clause 3 of Article I, section 9 of the US Constitution and the states are prohibited from the same by clause 1 of Article I, section 10. This is one of the very few restrictions that the United States Constitution made to both the power of the federal and

state governments prior to the Fourteenth Amendment. Over the years, when deciding ex post facto cases, the United States Supreme Court has referred repeatedly to its ruling in *Calder v. Bull*, in which Justice Samuel Chase held that the prohibition applied only to criminal, not civil, matters and established four categories of unconstitutional ex post facto laws. The case dealt with Article I, section 10's prohibition on ex post facto laws since it dealt with a Connecticut state law.

However, not all laws with ex post facto effects have been found to be unconstitutional. One current US law that has an ex post facto effect is the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. This law, which imposes new registration requirements on convicted sex offenders, also applies to offenders whose crimes were committed before the law was enacted. The US Supreme Court ruled in *Smith v. Doe* (2003) that forcing sex offenders to register their whereabouts at regular intervals and the posting of personal information about them on the Internet does not violate the constitutional prohibition against ex post facto laws, because this does not constitute any kind of punishment.

Another example is the Domestic Violence Offender Gun Ban, where firearms prohibitions were imposed on those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence offenses and subjects of restraining orders (which do not require a criminal conviction). These individuals can now be sentenced to up to 10 years in a federal prison for possession of a firearm, regardless of whether or not the weapon was legally possessed at the time the law was passed. Among those that it is claimed the law has affected is a father who was convicted of a misdemeanor of child abuse for spanking his child, since anyone convicted of child abuse now faces a lifetime firearms prohibition. The law has been legally upheld because it is considered regulatory, not punitive – it is a status offense.

Finally, *Calder v. Bull* expressly stated that a law that *mollifies* a criminal act was merely retrospective and not an ex post facto law.

In administrative law federal agencies may apply their rules retroactively if Congress has authorized them to do so (otherwise it is strictly prohibited). Retroactive application is disfavored by the courts for a number of reasons, but they will uphold retroactive regulation where Congress has expressly granted such retroactive power to the agency.

Retroactive taxes are not ex post facto laws. Substantive due process challenges to retroactive tax laws are given rational basis review per *United States v. Carlton*.

Hang on, here it comes...

The sentiment that ex post facto laws are against natural right is so strong in the United States that few, if any, of the State constitutions have failed to proscribe them. The federal constitution indeed interdicts them in criminal cases only; but they are equally unjust in civil as in criminal cases, and the omission of a caution which would have been right, does not justify the doing what is wrong. Nor ought it to be presumed that the legislature meant to use a phrase in an unjustifiable sense, if by rules of construction it can

be ever strained to what is just. – Thomas Jefferson, Letter to Isaac McPherson, August 13, 1813

The phrase isn't grammatically correct in Latin, as it consists of the preposition *ex*, the preposition *post*, and a noun with the wrong grammatical case to agree with *post*. Indeed, the Latin for this phrase is actually two words, *ex postfacto*, literally, out of a *postfactum* (an after-deed), or more naturally, from a law passed afterward.

Therefore, *ex post facto* or *ex postfacto* is natively an adverbial phrase, a usage demonstrated by the sentence "He was convicted *ex post facto* (i.e., from a law passed after his crime)." The law itself would rightfully be a *postfactum* law (*lex postfacta*); nevertheless, despite its redundant or circular nature, the phrase an *ex post facto* law is used.

I do run on at times. Basically we registered the suppressors long after they were illegally acquired, under the grandfather clause that permitted registration, without penalty, by supplying the make, model, serial number and ten bucks.

The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference

Robert Frost © 1916

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village, though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Robert Frost © 1924
(26 March 1874 – 29 January 1963)

We're home schooling the boys and those poems were part of their being taught to appreciate art. For Civics, when they're old enough to understand, we have a copy of the Declaration Rights, the original US Constitution, the revised US Constitution and a 50 page printout of quotes from Thomas Jefferson.

There are other quotes available on various subjects. But if we might discuss this point until we found that we nearly agreed, and if we do agree thoroughly about the impropriety of Carlylese denunciations and Pharisaism in history, I cannot accept your canon that we are to judge Pope and King unlike other men, with a favourable presumption that they did no wrong. If there is any presumption it is the other way, against the holders of power, increasing as the power increases. Historic responsibility has to make up for the want of legal responsibility. Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men, even when they exercise influence and not authority, still more when you superadd the tendency or the certainty of corruption by authority. There is no worse heresy than that the office sanctifies the holder of it. That is the point at which the negation of Catholicism and the negation of Liberalism meet and keep high festival, and the end learns to justify the means. You would hang a man of no position like Ravailac; but if what one hears is true, then Elizabeth asked the gaoler to murder Mary, and William III. ordered his Scots minister to extirpate a clan. Here are the greatest names coupled with the greatest crimes; you would spare those

criminals, for some mysterious reason. I would hang them higher than Haman, for reasons of quite obvious justice, still more, still higher for the sake of historical science.

Lord Acton, if you haven't seen the movie. He, like Jefferson, had a lot to say:

"Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

"Great men are almost always bad men."

"There is no worse heresy than that the office sanctifies the holder of it."

"The one pervading evil of democracy is the tyranny of the majority, or rather of that party, not always the majority, that succeeds, by force or fraud, in carrying elections."

"Be not content with the best book; seek sidelights from the others; have no favourites."

"The issue which has swept down the centuries and which will have to be fought sooner or later is the people versus the banks."

"Everything secret degenerates, even the administration of justice; nothing is safe that does not show how it can bear discussion and publicity."

"The danger is not that a particular class is unfit to govern. Every class is unfit to govern."

"There is no error so monstrous that it fails to find defenders among the ablest men."

"At all times sincere friends of freedom have been rare, and its triumphs have been due to minorities, that have prevailed by associating themselves with auxiliaries whose objects differed from their own; and this association, which is always dangerous, has been sometimes disastrous, by giving to opponents just grounds of opposition."

"Universal History is . . . not a burden on the memory but an illumination of the soul."

"There is not a more perilous or immoral habit of mind than the sanctifying of success."
(said of Oliver Cromwell)

"The strong man with the dagger is followed by the weak man with the sponge."

"The science of politics is the one science that is deposited by the streams of history, like the grains of gold in the sand of a river; and the knowledge of the past, the record of truths revealed by experience, is eminently practical, as an instrument of action and a power that goes to making the future."

"Save for the wild force of Nature, nothing moves in this world that is not Greek in its origin."

"Liberty is not the power of doing what we like, but the right of being able to do what we ought."

"Study problems in preference to periods."

If nothing else, our boys will understand the concepts of the enlightened. They will learn as they grow and by the time they're old enough, will attend a college of their choice to further that education. We may not be terribly rich in the material sense, but there's enough for their educations.

Mason and David got the firm back up and running and I went back to work as a full partner representing both Carolyn's and my interest. Many things that had been left unattended to during the Obama reign, like road maintenance, etc. were contracted out and we landed a large contract rebuilding roads in our immediate area.

There have been events in the 240 year history of our country that were turning points and lessons. The Obama reign was one such lesson, reminding us of Lord Acton's dictum about power. We the People fixed it and made changes we hoped would prevent it in the future. There are no guarantees!

God forbid we should ever be twenty years without such a rebellion. The people cannot be all, and always, well informed. The part which is wrong will be discontented, in proportion to the importance of the facts they misconceive. If they remain quiet under such misconceptions, it is lethargy, the forerunner of death to the public liberty. ... What country before ever existed a century and half without a rebellion? And what country can preserve its liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms. The remedy is to set them right as to facts, pardon and pacify them. What signify a few lives lost in a century or two? The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.

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